

Sherman County Journal

Fifty-Eighth Year No. 33

Moro, Oregon, Friday, June 21, 1946

Official County Paper

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

Judging from letters being dumped on members of congress, the American people are becoming tired of the program to feed all the hungry people in the world. The wheat shortage, together with the announced plan whereby every farmer who puts his wheat in a warehouse must sell 50 percent of which the government will buy 25 percent, half of which will be sent overseas, is not making a hit. The Pacific northwest, as a sample, has contributed more than its quota of wheat for the starving and now finds that it does not have enough feed to save its poultry industry from liquidation. The smaller bake shops are closing for lack of flour, and bread lines are being formed in many cities to buy the few loaves that are available. Also, the loaves are smaller, the price is a trifle higher and there is talk of rationing bread one loaf to a customer.

And meat. Butchers are closing by the hundreds and the prospect is that more hundreds will close their doors soon. Those that remain open must take such meat as is offered, and it is tied in with stuff that they do not and which they have difficulty in selling. Try to buy a ham or a pound of bacon.

As meat disappears, the meat dealers are trying to dispose of the chickens which are being liquidated. Spring lamb is about the only meat generally available. With the liquidating of the poultry industry there is a growing shortage of eggs and the price is going up. Prices are now up on butter and cheese.

As one Washington housewife complained: "It is more difficult to buy food now than it was during the war and everything else is going sky high. We are now suffering from inflation and no one knows how much worse it will become, but I anticipate that we have scarcely begun the experience of the reaction from trying to save the starving millions of other lands."

Bread, meat, chickens, eggs, butter, cheese, are vanishing from the grocery stores throughout the land. Some dealers explain the situation by saying that there will be meat butter and other foods after July 1, when those now holding stocks will throw them on the market. The impression is that on July 1 prices will go higher, and that is what some dealers are waiting for. President Truman said months ago that the American people would have to tighten their belts. The chief executive was right.

Senate rejection of an amendment to the Case bill which would have provided compulsory arbitration of labor disputes in utilities and industries affecting public health, welfare and safety, did not dissuade its author, Senator Wiley of Wisconsin, from continuing his effort and renewal of his plan awaits the propitious hour for the introduction of a bill by him. This is the conclusion to be drawn from the Wisconsin senator's remarks on been disposed of. Senator Wiley the floor after the Case bill had contended that none of the several labor bills so far considered offers anything more than palliatives for a condition constantly becoming more acute and for which a solution must be found if the United States is to continue on the road to full industrial development.

Senator Wiley admitted that both labor and management have hitherto been opposed to compulsory arbitration because of its invitation to broader government controls, but, he declared government control in the interest of the public cannot be averted in any event, and compulsory arbitration provides an answer in law and peaceful procedure to the chaos which we may experience and which we have experienced.

TRAVEL PROGRAM FEATURES OREGON COAST



With tourists and vacationists free once again to take to the open road and travel as far as they wish, Oregon's picturesque coast line is expected to attract a record number of visitors this year. This picture of a stretch of seashore is one of a series of twenty-five full-color photographs of scenic views of the West that Standard of California distributes to remind travelers of the beauty of the coast they should visit. The oil company will give away 20,000,000 copies of the photographs through its retail outlets.

Warmer Weather 1946 Loan Rates on Wheat and Barley Announced; Wheat Up 8c Comes As Summer Starts

Since the big hail and rain of last Thursday and the smattering of rain of Sunday the weather man has decided to warm up the country a bit and temperatures have been much higher than during May and June. A great deal of hay was down before the rain and the warm weather has dried that although most of it was turned. Summer-fallow will have to be worked soon but that was a job that would have preceded harvest in any event. Rainfall during June has totaled .86 inch, which is not far from normal and, despite the dry May, chances for a crop seem pretty fair in the sections of the county hit by the heavier rain-fall.

98.2 Percent Tax Collection Made

Of the \$175,066.27 on the 1945-46 tax roll given to the sheriff all has been collected but \$3376.07. This is a 98.2 percent collection. Since the first of the year \$3120.57 in taxes and interest has been collected. In delinquent taxes \$5264.63 has been collected including the interest that has accrued. Largest amounts paid were on 1939 and prior years of which the sheriff has gotten \$1443.73, which was nearly \$400 interest. No recent year had delinquencies collected greater than \$200.

The report is one that must be made to the county court and state tax commission to show tax collections on property during the fiscal year.

1896 NORMAL GRADUATES MEET AGAIN AT MONMOUTH

The 1896 graduating class of Oregon State Normal at Monmouth met for its 50th anniversary last week. Out of the original class of 51, 17 attended four of whom were from Sherman county. W. H. Ragsdale, Jerusha James Hollenbeck, Jack Frost and Julia Woods Hansen. Mrs. Perry Axtell also attended as she was a graduate of the previous class of 1895.

MARION CREWS FINISHES WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY

Marion Crews, son of F. M. Crews, was presented the Charles E. McCulloch Scholarship for outstanding scholastic ability over a three year period at the Awards Chapel at the university Wednesday. The award allows for full tuition for the fourth year at Willamette. Crews is a junior at the university and has public school music as his major field of study. He is an active member of the Independent Men's organization on the campus.

Approval of 1946 loan programs for Oregon's two leading grain crops, with loan values 8 cents a bushel higher than 1945 for wheat and 5 cents a bushel higher for barley, have been announced by the state PMA committee. General provisions of the loan plans for both crops remain the same as the 1945 program, through which more than \$10,000,000 was loaned to Oregon producers. Details can be obtained from county agricultural conservation committees, which again will handle the loans for Commodity Credit corporation. Wheat loan rates will be at 90 percent of parity as required by law. The terminal loan rate for Portland will be \$1.57 a bushel for No. 1 soft white wheat. Rates for principal stations in main wheat producing counties are as follows: Arlington, Gilliam county, \$1.465; Madras, Jefferson county, \$1.431; Heppner Morrow county, \$1.45; Moro, Sherman county, \$1.462; Pendleton, Umatilla county, \$1.413; The Dalles, Wasco county, \$1.454.

County loan rates for barley are as follows: Gilliam, 80 cents; Jefferson, 88 cents; Sherman, 90 cents; Umatilla, 82 cents; Wasco, 90 cents. Farmers now may well keep an eye on the so-called "parity" index published monthly by the USDA to show the trend in farm, L. R. Breithaupt, O.S.C. extension agricultural economist. Even in 1945 farm operation expenses in Oregon had reached a level greater than the total value of crop and animal production before the war and higher costs are indicated for 1946, he says.

The parity index of farm costs rose sharply from mid-April to mid-May this year. At 184 percent of 1910-1914 this index at mid-May was 3 points higher than at mid-April and 11 points over May 1945. Including hired labor, farm costs are now around 5 or 6 percent higher than a year ago, the data indicate. Price advances for farm products have averaged nearly as much so far, however, although some have declined recently.

4-H Clubbers In Summer School

Fourteen 4-H club children left Tuesday morning for Biggs where they caught a bus for Corvallis and the annual summer school. A bus owner from Condon took children from Grant, Wheeler, Gilliam and Sherman counties. The children will return June 28. Mrs. B. H. Roberson went along as chaperon until Sunday when she will be relieved by Mr. Wright.

SHETT BURRELL SELLS STEERS FOR FEEDERS

Shett Burrell sold 97 head of two and three year old steers Saturday to a feeder from Canby, who will put them on clover and grass pasture and finish them on corn. The steers were in good condition and weighed around 1000 pounds.

Mrs. Ella Keys, nee Ella Kenney, sister of Charles, James and Mrs. Clarence Mersinger of Moro, was married last Sunday, June 16, to Fred Ruckman, formerly of Moro. The wedding was in Portland and they will live there.

Misses Dorris Motley and Lena Martin will take charge of the church services at the community church Sunday and speak on their work as teachers of the Bible to children.

Alan Thompson, son of Mr and Mrs Orval Thompson joined the marine corps this week at Port-Awards Chapel at the university Wednesday. The award allows for full tuition for the fourth year at Willamette.

Crews is a junior at the university and has public school music as his major field of study. He is an active member of the Independent Men's organization on the campus.

O'Meara Store Burned Down With Huge Loss

Saturday Night Fire Destroys Harvest Repairs and Big Collection of War Trophies

The big O'Meara Supply & Implement store at Wasco was completely destroyed by fire Saturday night, together with Caterpillar and Harris and John Deere extras for the 1946 harvest season and the finest collection of war-time souvenirs in this area. Cause of the fire is unknown. It was discovered about 10:30 at which time the interior of the wooden building was all ablaze. Nothing was recovered from it.

The fire department was able to save the Walter Medler house immediately west of the store and the residences east were also saved by constant wetting from the fire hoses.

Loss of the extras is a serious matter to the owners of farm machinery who have long depended on O'Meara for repairs in harvest. Harris extras were distributed over four counties and Caterpillar extras over all of Sherman county. The O'Meara firm has been in business for over 30 years. The souvenirs were the property of the O'Meara boys, five of whom served in the armed services. Whole showcases were filled with them and the collection included almost everything of interest from Germany and Italy. Guns, knives, money, uniforms, medals, insignia and a great deal of other interesting material. Much of it was invaluable for sentimental reasons.

The loss in supplies and extras and the building is estimated at \$50,000 which is partially covered by insurance and the loss in souvenirs is given as \$30,000 which was uninsured.

The firm has moved to the Eastern Oregon Electric company store, owned by Patty O'Meara, for the present and will continue in business. Every effort will be made to obtain repairs and supplies for the coming harvest.

Rheumatic Fever Fund For Research Provided

Action to pioneer a national health program into the field of rheumatic fever has been taken by the American Legion and Auxiliary by placing \$25,000 each in a pool from which funds will be drawn to combat the menace of rheumatic fever.

Plans for the joint program were announced in a joint statement by John Stelle, National Commander of the Legion, and Mrs. Walter G. Craven, National President of the Auxiliary.

Fifty percent of the funds available have been earmarked for a broad program of attack on the disease and the remaining half of the funds will be utilized in research. Rheumatic fever, with its effects upon the heart, causes more deaths and more invalidism up to the age of 16 than any other disease, the joint statement pointed out. Even up to the age of 26 rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease are second only to tuberculosis in the causes of death.

Wheat Stocks Increasing Slightly

The department of agriculture's latest crop report on the amount of wheat in North America shows 130,486,000 bushels on hand this week, an increase from last week of over a million bushels. A year ago stocks were 334,737,000. In the United States in store and afloat were 44,793,000 compared to 68,440,000 last year. Canadian stocks dropped from 249,710,000 bushels last year to 53,983,000 last week. Corn stocks are higher than a year ago and other grains show much less drop in bushelage since this time in June 1945.

School Elections Make Some New School Officers

School elections were generally decided by a few voters, there being general lack of interest. At Wasco where there was disagreement about whether to hold high school, to send them to Moro, or to teach pupils from adjoining districts that are members of the non-high school district, a fair sized group came to the meeting, about 20 being reported present. High school will be continued at Wasco.

Lloyd Royce was elected director replacing Afton McIntyre at Wasco, H. H. Brackett replaced Hugh Mathison at Rufus, Fay Brackett was reelected at Biglow, H. M. Zell reelected at Locust Grove.

At Moro Ernest Woods was elected to replace Kenneth McKean. C. O. Higley was elected to replace Irving Hart at Harmony.

Bernard Martin, from the new part of the Grass Valley district was chosen to replace Dell Olds. This broadens the board's representation as to territory and gives recognition to the newly voted section.

Early returns indicate that Tom Fraser has been reelected to the non-high school board, together with Alfred Payne from the Grass Valley zone and Kenneth Fridley from the northeast zone. The six percent limit was waived in the non-high school district.

Former Biggs Girl Married in Spokane

Saturday, June 8, at 9:00 a. m. Miss Elizabeth Mary Bryant was united in wedlock with John Angelo De Santo in St. Mary's Cathedral in Seattle, Washington. The bride, who attended Rufus school until her senior year, was given in marriage by her father, Joseph Bryant, Biggs section farmer for nine years before moving to Seattle.

A wedding dinner for family and relatives was served in the dining room of the Casa Italiana, and a reception, followed by dancing, was held at 8:00 p. m. in the Casa Italiana ballroom. Cutting the cake at 11:00 p. m. The bride and groom departed for a week in Vancouver B. C., after which they will take up residence in Seattle, where the groom operates a grocery store.

William Henry Harder Buried At Milton

Friends were saddened by the recent death of William Henry Harder of Milton, Oregon, who died June 8, 1946 at Walla Walla, Washington, at the age of 72. Mr Harder owned and operated his ranch southwest of Grass Valley until three years ago when he retired to his old home in Milton, leaving his ranch to Arzell Lemley.

Among his Sherman county friends and neighbors who attended his funeral at Milton Monday were Mr and Mrs A. A. Dunlap, Mr and Mrs Arzell Lemley, Frank Hammond, Mr and Mrs Max Brown and Mr and Mrs Donald Clodfelter.

City Budget Approved By Council

The Moro city council, sitting as the levying board for the city, approved the budget as published late in May. It calls for a lower millage than have former budgets. Amendments to the curfew ordinance were given final passage, funds were transferred to remove some non-active funds from the city books, the fire hydrants were ordered painted yellow with red tops, the public property committee was asked to obtain prices on wiring the fire siren to the city hall.

A report was made by George Updegraff to the effect that the city had no authority to compromise Bancroft assessments and that payment of principal and interest was the only means of clearing the ownership of property under that improvement.

Hail Damages, Rain Improves Wheat Prospects

Crop Destroyed In Streak Six Miles Long Near Grass Valley; Rain .80 inch

Hail and a heavy, though spotted rain hit the south end of Sherman county last Thursday night and almost completely destroyed several fields of standing grain. Other fields were materially helped by the rainfall.

The hail hit first on the Davis ranch southwest of Grass Valley and proceeded in a north by east direction to George Smith's place in Nigger Hollow, northeast of Grass Valley. Damaged was grain on the Lemley, Coyle, Stradley Olds, Eakyn, May, Kock, Willard Barnett, Kee, King, and Smith farms.

It is likely that well over 2000 acres were seriously damaged or destroyed, sufficient to run nearly to \$100,000, depending on the recovery that may be made from what remains.

The taller wheat, Rex and Federation seemed to have stiff enough straw to be bent over with some of the heads being knocked off and many others damaged by hail stones. Turkey Red suffered least, being softer strawed. Elgin and Alice were hurt worst as the brittle straw was broken off completely.

Parts of the Eben Kee field of Elgin look as if mowed by a dull mower about six inches above the ground, not over 5 percent of the heads being left. Oat right of way were also mowed around some fields.

Whether owners will choose to cut the remaining green stubble, turn in stock, or wait until later to determine has not been learned. Some crops might grow from the roots and produce something, it is stated.

Rainfall was heavy at Moro where .80 inch was recorded within a space of little over an hour. At the Peters ranch south of Grass Valley .58 inches fell and .34 was recorded at Kent. Rains did not reach far east of town.

On many fields the rain will be sufficient to insure a better crop than was expected before it fell. Little rain fell north of Gordon ridge.

Some damage was done to wheat on the Lou Schadewitz place farmed by Grover Young but other reports from that area do not mention extensive loss. The only field covered by insurance was that of Wallace May who had government insurance on his crop.

Undivided Profits Put In Surplus Account

Directors of the First National Bank voted Monday to transfer \$5 million from the undivided profits and reserves account to the bank's surplus account, according to E. B. MacNaughton, president. This action increased the surplus account to \$10,500,000. Total capital funds of the First National, including capital, surplus, undivided profits and reserves, now stand in excess of \$23,000,000. No stocks has been sold by the bank to the public since 1910. All gains in the institution's capital funds since 1910 have come solely from earnings. Dividends have been paid continuously for 75 years.

The capital of the bank, \$4,500,000, plus the surplus, now \$10,500,000, sets the basis for the amount the bank may loan in any single transaction, or the amount the bank may invest in one single bond issue at \$1,500,000.

COUNTY COURT PREFERRED SHED TO SERVICE MEN

The county court, together with the members of the budget committee, met last Friday and approved the budget as published with the exception that the \$1500 that had been placed in the budget for payment of a service officer for the county was taken out and a like sum put in the road fund for a shed for housing county road machinery.

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