

# Sherman County Journal

Fifty-Eighth Year No. 36

Moro, Oregon, Friday, July 12, 1946

Official County Paper

## Garrulous, Leisurely, Flippant COMMENT

A father pacing the hospital corridors has nothing on a wheat farmer whose every waking thought is concerned with the weather in the final days before the wheat crop gets out of danger from east winds, hard rains, hail storms, hard wind or any of the other things that reduce yields in carefully tended wheat crops.

An agricultural economist is reported as saying, via radio, that OPA or no OPA prices are going higher and surpluses are going to accrue, and the bottom is going to drop out sometime. With OPA, the process might be bracketed down a little.

He may be right. Somebody has to guess the future correctly since everybody tries and he has history behind him for that as about what happened after every war. Money is easy, people are easy. Then production catches up following its war time duties and the buyer can tell the seller what he will pay and how.

Inasmuch as the law of supply and demand has not been repealed despite reports to the contrary, and inasmuch as human nature is still just the same as it always has been, something like the above is probably in store for us.

Did you ever notice how fine a booster for Sherman county is the man who has moved away? They are tickled to get back and always refer to Sherman county as the best place in the world—which it is—old timers who are faking their so called easy years amid the concrete and confusion of the cities are the best boosters the county has.

Some one is going to pick up some comparatively easy money some day by caring for the riding horses of city folks who want to keep a saddle horse and have nothing to feed him. That may be one use for the farm barn, which is now used as a place in which to milk the cow—if any—and which is entirely overshadowed by the machine shed on most farms. Who ever thought that the horse would become a plaything in this country, where he was once so much of a necessity?

Speaking of counties: what makes one a great county, anyhow? They are prosperous because of good soil, good farmers and good crops that are in demand. Counties (and cities too) are great because of the people who inhabit them. Springfield, Illinois had no reputation for financial resource back in the 1850s, but it was a great town nevertheless because Abraham Lincoln lived there.

If this county had 20 or 30 or 50 young men who were determined to make Sherman county the best county socially as well as economically, it could be as distinctive a place to live as it now is distinctive as a place to make money.

It has been suggested that women learn to smoke on a pipe instead of cigarettes. Reason given is that nearly all pipe smokers give the appearance of enjoying their smoke. They revel in it whereas many cigarette smokers grab a puff and hastily put it away from them as if taking a dose of quinine. Women do this more frequently than men, hence the suggested reform, about which, we feel able to assure you nothing will be done.

We rather wish it was time to take the census again. There are so many young people in the county now. After so many years of seeing old faces, wrinkled faces, and faces a bit drawn from work and worry, it is pleasant to see young men who swing along and young women who bounce down the street. We'd like to compare the membership of age groups now and four years ago. And the youngest age group is growing, too. And that's the best part of it.

Harvest about the last week in July is like old times when heading began about then and threshing went on and on into the cold and quiet fall, with wheat hauling just finished in time for late seeding. There was the days—for hard work.

## Farm Prices Other Prices Still Climbing

A see-saw race between advancing farm costs and advancing prices for agricultural products has been going on in the past few months according to a review of USDA data by the Q.S.C. agricultural economics extension section. Cost increases have averaged a bit faster, but with some commodities such as grain the price increases have been the winner.

A further rise in the parity index of farm costs was registered during the period mid-May to mid-June. Prices paid by farmers jumped 3 points to 187 percent of 1910-1914, an increase in the past year of 14 points over June 1945.

Partly offsetting the increase in costs, the general level of prices received by farmers rose 2 points during the year which ended at mid-June. Thus, the exchange value of farm products declined from 119 percent of parity to 117 percent, calculated without including farm labor in the formula.

### Parity Prices Bested

As parity is calculated, the United States average beef cattle prices stood at 140 percent, down 3 points from June 1945; lambs 130, down 1 point; milk at wholesale 127, up 3 points; chickens 125, down 12; wool 123, down 1; corn 118, up 18; veal, 117, down 1; butterfat 116, down 4; oats 108, up 10; potatoes 107, down 36; wheat 105, up 7; hogs 105, down 7; eggs 96, down 16; and hay 66, down 12 points.

The general trend, however, is similar to the situation following the first world war. From about the present parity level, the general farm price level dropped to 75 percent of parity in four years following world war I. It rose to average about 80 percent of parity for several years before plunging down to 50 in 1933. For a year or two just before world war II, farm prices averaged about 75 percent of parity.

## Sheriff's Posse Wants More Horsemen

The newly reorganized Sherman County Sheriff's Posse met Tuesday night and made arrangements for a meeting Sunday to determine just how many riders will be available for rides and practice sessions between now and fair time when it is planned to give some drills as a part of the fair program.

It was announced that Fred Hill would not come down from Pendleton Sunday but would wait until it was known how many were interested in doing the practicing necessary to make a good showing in drills. Everyone who wants to have a part in the posse is urged to come out Sunday when the posse will meet at the fair grounds at two o'clock.

## Threshing Machines Must Be Cleaned

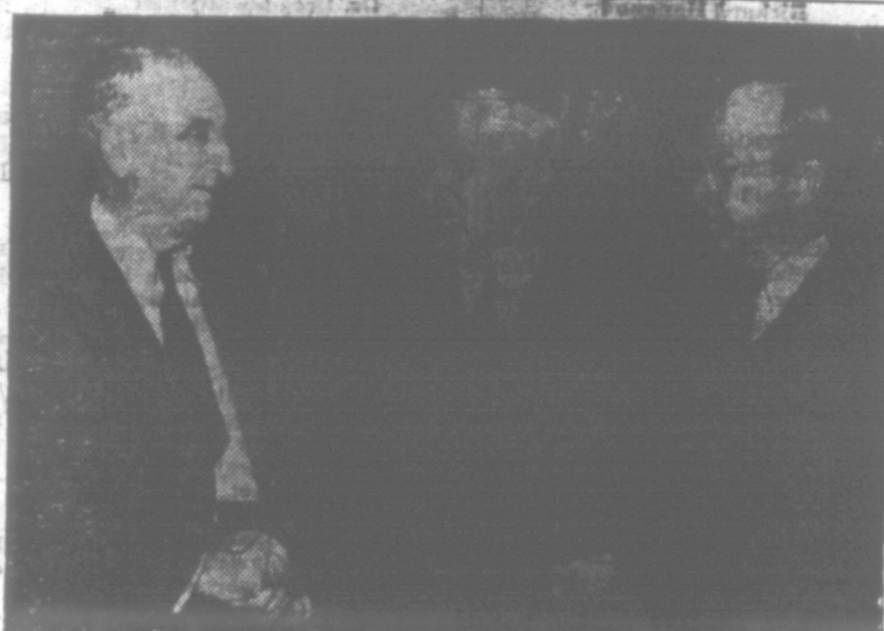
The county clerk is having some excerpts of the weed law printed so they will be available to owners of threshing machines and other machines of the county that are moved from one field to another.

The weed law states that every machine moved shall have one of the statements on it and that every machine shall be thoroughly cleaned before being moved onto the roads or into another field. All weed seed of the varieties the weed control district was formed to control or eradicate must be removed from the machine. In order to comply with the law which has been invoked for Sherman county.

Combine owners shall apply to the clerk for the statements of the law.

### MRS BRYANT ENTERTAINED

Mrs E. H. Moore was hostess at a luncheon Monday in honor of Mrs Elva Bryant, who has been visiting here for ten days. Ladies invited visited with Mrs Bryant who was leaving for her home in Hood River Tuesday.



NEW CHIEF JUSTICE AND TREASURY HEAD... Fred M. Vinson was named chief justice of the U. S. Supreme court by President Truman, and Reorganization Director John W. Snyder was selected to succeed Vinson as head of the treasury department. Left to right: Fred M. Vinson, President Truman and John W. Snyder. The new secretary of treasury was a former St. Louis banker. Vinson served in congress and on federal bench.

## Crews-Olds Wedding Solemnized; Hardisty-Reid Vows Exchanged

Miss Betty Lou Olds, daughter of Mr and Mrs Dell Olds of Grass Valley, became the bride of Marles Crews, son of Mr and Mrs David Reid, Free Crews of Wasco at a 4 o'clock ceremony Sunday afternoon, June 7, at the Grass Valley Methodist church.

The Reverend F. L. Cannel of Wasco read the double ring ceremony in the presence of a large group of relatives and friends.

The church was beautifully decorated with baskets of white gladioli, lilies and other white summer flowers. Two candelabra on either side of the altar were lighted by Miss Patty French and Miss Patricia Kaseberg dressed in dotted swiss floor length dresses before the ceremony.

Mrs Carroll Sayers played the wedding music and also accompanied Mrs Kenneth McKean, who sang "Until" and "At Dawning".

Miss Olds, given in marriage by her father, was attractive in a white marquisette gown with a basque waist, the yoke of which was outlined with medallions centered with seed pearls, long sleeves and full length train. Her finger tip veil was held in place with organdie flowers centered with seed pearls. She carried a white prayer book centered with a single white orchid.

Mrs Arden Squire was matron of honor, Miss Margaret Kook, and Miss Barbara McConaughy, bridesmaids, wore floor length pastel sheers and carried old fashioned nosegays with matching coronets.

Don Rostad was best man for the bride groom and Kenneth Blau and Clyde Fridley Jr., were ushers.

A reception was held at the home of the bride's parents immediately following the ceremony. The linen covered table was centered with a bowl of white baby gladioli, pink and white delphiniums and pink rosebuds with crystal candle holders with white tapers. The three tiered wedding cake, after the first piece was cut by the bride and groom, was served by Mrs D.A. Van Gilder. The loes were served by Mrs Collis Moore and Mrs Kenneth Blau presided at the punch bowl. The young ladies of the wedding party assisted about the rooms.

For going away the bride chose a black suit with matching accessories. Her corsage was the white orchid she carried during the ceremony.

After a weeks trip to an undisclosed destination the young couple will make their home in Moro for the remainder of the summer.

Out of town relatives present for the ceremony were Mr and Mrs A. C. Hall, aunt and uncle of the bride and Mrs James Walkenshaw, the brides grandmother.

### COUNCIL TALKS LIGHTS

The city council decided on locations for street lights at its meeting Tuesday night, preparatory to making a new contract with the Pacific Power & Light company in August. The lighted spots were not changed much although some of the locations were poorly designated.

It is expected that a franchise for the power company will be signed at the next meeting. It will be similar to that recently given the company by the City of Wasco.

## Wheat Crop of 3,000,000 bus. Now Possible

### Late Rains Make Spring Grain Prospects Much Brighter Than Month Ago

Another quarter of an inch of rain fell Monday to make more sure a good crop for 1946. Crop prospects over a large part of the county are now about as good as for any remembered year, even the years from 1941-44 when bountiful crops occurred every harvest.

It is the north end of the county that has the poorer prospects this year and that is largely because of weeds. Tar weed, pepper grass, mustard and other annual weeds have kept many fields north of the ridge looking bad all spring, although other fields appear normal.

This may be a year in which late wheat has an advantage over earlier wheat, because of the late rains. The entire season has been backward.

### South End Good

South of Moro there is quite a bit of spring grain which uniformly looks fine and has prospects for 30 to 40 bushels unless hot weather comes soon. Some is still green but will not long remain that color in July.

Cutting began on the point, this week with Wes Fuller ready to start Monday or Tuesday had not the rain interfered. He estimated his crop at 20 bushels at least, but returns are not in.

Estimates of the probable size of the crop are generally high. It may be that 3,000,000 bushels will be warehoused before harvest ends. Wheat has been removed from the houses to meet the demands of Europe and storage space is available for a larger crop than that if needed. Contrary to conditions for recent years, storage is not a problem.

There are 120,589 acres sown to wheat in this county for 1946 harvest as compared to 106,000 last year. A crop of 25 bushels would make a total crop of 2,650,000 bushels and expectancy is for a larger yield than 25 bushels. It is possible for the county to produce 3,000,000 bushels again if conditions remain favorable and the wheat is as good as it looks, and most observers think it very good.

## Mills Waiting Before Buying Wheat Stocks

Since there had been no active trading on the cash wheat markets of the Pacific Northwest for several weeks past, cancellation of ceiling prices during the week ending July 3, was not so disturbing as with some other grains, according to reports to the Production and Marketing Administration, U.S.D.A. Some feed manufacturers desperately in need of what may have made purchases of spot wheat at higher prices when the ceilings were removed, but reports indicate that the grain trade generally hesitated to make new commitments, preferring to wait till the situation becomes more stable. Flour mills with wheat stocks entirely exhausted, apparently were unwilling to take on large stocks of wheat at the advanced prices. Interest in wheat is principally centered in the new crop which is reported to be in excellent condition throughout the entire Pacific Northwest; with unusually favorable weather conditions during the month of June a very large crop of fine quality winter wheat is practically assured, according to reports from the large wheat producing areas. Harvest will be later than usual as a result of recent rains, but is expected to be quite generally by July 20.

### MAY LESS HAZARDOUS FOR MOTORISTS

Oregon's traffic death rate for the month of May dropped three points below the rate for the same month a year ago, Secretary of State Farrell reported today. The rate this May was ten persons killed per one hundred million miles of travel, compared to a rate of thirteen a year ago. Farrell said the actual death toll for May of this year was 37, compared to 31 for May of 1945. However, motorists ran up 371,960,644 miles on Oregon highways in May of this year, compared to 228,945,212 miles a year ago. The accident death rate indicates the number of persons killed in relation to exposure, as shown by motor vehicle use.

Farrell urged Oregon motorists to remember the increased traffic volumes on the highways today and to exercise greater driving care to avoid accidents.

## Reed E Rudin Awaiting Trial Or Hearing

Reed Ellis Rudin was brought to the Sherman county jail last week by Sheriff Fields and his hearing before Justice of Peace Ryland Scott was held Monday on a charge of assault and robbery while armed with a dangerous weapon, a charge identical with the one placed against Leslie Wilson, his accomplice, who was taken to the penitentiary last month.

Bail was set at \$2000 by the Justice.

Although Rudin has signed a confession it is not known how he will plead when he comes before Judge Mackay. John D. Cramer, Portland attorney, came to see him Wednesday, which may result in a change in intent on the part of Rudin, whose hearing sentence was originally scheduled for Tuesday morning at 9:30 a. m.

## Vernon Shipley Heads Legion Post For Year

Chris Schultz Post, American Legion chose Vernon Shipley as commander for the coming year at its meeting Wednesday night and elected an entire group of World War II veterans for all offices.

Robert Marvin was elected as vice-commander, Ralph Busse adjutant, Lloyd Henrichs finance officer, Ray Jewel chaplain and Max Belshe sergeant at arms. Other officers are appointive and will be named by the new commander upon his assumption to office later in the year.

Plans were made and committees appointed to give a harvest ball at Moro August 17, following by two weeks the harvest ball at Wasco, given by the Legion there, and a "dress-up" dance two weeks before the Sherman County Fair.

## Army Engineers Tell River Plans

Army Engineers have \$2,600,000 which to initiate construction of McNary dam on the Columbia near Umatilla, Colonel V. E. Walsh, Portland district engineer, told delegates to the Northwest Rivers and Harbors Congress meeting today at Longview, Washington.

"Part of that amount will be used to complete plans, acquire land at the dam site and erect a small construction camp," he said. "Early in the fall," Colonel Walsh stated, "Army Engineers will advertise for rock excavation of the McNary dam lock and a portion of the approach channel."

"The lock of the dam, primarily a navigation project, will be 66 by 500 feet with a normal lift of 60 feet and maximum of 92 feet."

Initial construction of one of the four, five or six slackwater navigation dams on the Snake river during the 1948 fiscal year is anticipated by Colonel Walsh.

Another of the new projects is improvement of the Columbia river between Vancouver and The Dalles at an estimated cost of \$1,176,000 with additional features including a ten-foot channel 300 feet wide at the entrance to Oregon Slough \$6,000; a small boat basin at Hood River with a ten-foot channel 200 feet wide connecting deep water, \$8,000; and a ten-foot channel 200 feet wide connecting the waterfront at Bingen, Washington, to the main channel through Bonneville lake, V-J day. The total was divided as follows: Civilians \$13,249,821; veterans \$5,567,512; self-employed veterans \$895,093.

Payments to covered civilian workers dropped off 27 percent in June to \$1,501,776. Unemployed veterans received \$771,822, only 2 percent less than in May, while payments to the self-employed increased about 8 percent to \$228,334. Veterans are paid by the state agency from federal funds under the GI Bill of Rights.

Reduction in civilian payments was ascribed mainly to expiration of the 1946 benefit rights of 18,700 workers, about 75 percent of whom were former shipyard employes in the metropolitan area. Seasonal work, however, was picking up considerably, especially in the western valleys, with lumbering and canneries employing about 14,000 more than in March.

## Field Day Brings Large Group of Farmers to Station

### Interest in New Weeds, Weed Killers and Grasses Shown By Visitors

One of the best attended field days in the history of the Sherman branch experiment station was held Saturday when nearly a hundred farmers from three counties came to go over the fields with Merrill Oveson, superintendent.

The weed control plots were shown first the weed killed being pepper grass to a large extent. In explanation, Oveson and D. D. Hill of OSC explained that methoxone mixtures had been the most successful, being superior to 2-4-D in most of the tests tried here.

It is an English preparation which was made here in Oregon by a former weed control expert, but is not available for purchase.

The spring crops looked fine and the varieties all appealed to the large crowd who looked at them while Oveson told the names of the varieties and their reputation for production, smut resistance, test weight, etc. The oat and barley crops on the station were all good.

On the test plots where alfalfa and grass had been growing for five years the wheat was a failure having dried up in May before rains came. Too much nitrogen and too much run-off of moisture was given as the reason. Some alfalfa apparently well adapted to dry land was shown.

A trashy fallow experiment on which grain was sown last September 27 with a Dempster drill and a deep furrow drill was shown. On mold board plowing there was little difference but on the trashy fallow the Dempster drill was held to have done the best work. The crop was good, being almost ripe Turkey Red.

At the nursery D. D. Hill spoke of the need for raising fewer kinds of wheat. A cereal nursery is being started at Pullman, he said, and if given governmental support will be of immeasurable value to northwest wheat growers in that it will tell them the value of their wheat before so much testing is done. Rex, he said, may be a perfect wheat for chemurgic uses and testing would show that if true.

Rate and date of sowing and time of plowing were shown and the party went past the rotation plots where all kinds of systems of growing two crops in three years or three in four are tried, all without acceptance by farmers over 30 years.

Comment heard was that the station looked fine in that all crops, with minor exceptions, looked as if they would produce well this harvest. In the nursery were 3000 new varieties of wheat, some of which may be grown all over the northwest in ten years.

The grasses interested the group briefly and some may be developed that will be grown when market conditions change to cause a surplus of wheat again.

### UNEMPLOYMENT FUND STAYS AT HIGH FIGURE

The Oregon Unemployment Compensation Commission in the first half of 1946 paid out nearly 20 millions, more than the payments for the entire eight years of unemployment insurance up to V-J day. The total was divided as follows: Civilians \$13,249,821; veterans \$5,567,512; self-employed veterans \$895,093.

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### VISIT IN LEXINGTON

Mr and Mrs Merle Becket drove to Heppner Wednesday night to spend the Fourth there with her relatives and witness the air show at the Lexington airport on the nation's birthday.