

Sherman County Journal

Fifty-Ninth Year No. 4

Moro, Oregon, Friday, November 29, 1946

Official County Paper

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

This national capitol is undergoing the same experience that it did five months ago when John L. Lewis pulled a coal strike and to break that, the federal government ran up the American flag over the mines. The District of Columbia uses coal as a fuel. A comparatively few residents and some of the more modern hotels heat with oil, but the average citizen burns coal, as also does the electric power plant that serves the District. The colored population of approximately 300,000 depend exclusively on coal. And coal is used to fire the boilers which heat the capitol buildings, the senate and house office buildings and various other government structures. The federal heating plant never carries a stockpile of more than a week. The colored people buy a few sacks of coal at a time, just enough to last a few days. As a matter of poetic justice, the old mansion in which Lewis lives in Alexandria, across the Potomac river from Washington D. C., is also heated with coal. When Lewis bought the place, the house was equipped with a gas furnace, but, to be consistent with his U. M. W. Lewis tore out the gas and installed a coal burner. The chimney of the Lewis home is being watched to see whether the black smoke of a coal fire serves notice that the Lewis bunker is still well supplied.

With coal required to generate electricity, the Potomac Power Co. is rationing its power. Not as many street lights are used. The blazing fronts of movie theaters have been dimmed. The lights on the dome of the capitol have been extinguished, as they were during the war years. Shops on Connecticut Avenue and F Street (heart of the retail business) have their show window lights switched off early in the evening, and evening now is about 4 p. m. Hotels and apartment houses keep vigilant watch to see that no lights are left burning unnecessarily. Washington is conserving its electricity as well as its coal.

Conditions similar to those prevailing in Washington exist in all of the area from New England to the midwest. In fact, almost to the far west, where coal is supplanted by cheaper and more up to date fuel, such as oil and gas and where electric power comes from falling water. Yet even in the far west, coal is important in some industries and a few public buildings.

Steam railroads in the east are cancelling train schedules to conserve coal, but electric driven and diesel locomotives (constantly becoming more numerous), are maintaining their customary runs. Mr. Lewis, who has pulled five strikes in nine years and got away with each, has apparently not sensed the fact that fuel oil, hydro-electric plants and gas are gradually invading the fields for current strike will compel many merely monopolized by coal. The industries and home-owners to install oil burners or gas as a protection against any future coal shortage.

Much has been said about the "human rights" of coal miners, and with justice. However, there are a hundred million other citizens in the United States who also have "human rights" that are being infringed by Lewis. To Lewis and his U. M. W. his rights come first and there is an utter disregard for the health, welfare, and happiness of the other hundred million people. Lewis is causing other industrial plants to close down, throwing men out of work and too, with Christmas just around the corner. Unless the strike is terminated soon, it will be a bleak Christmas for innumerable families.

A spot survey, taken in key cities of the nation, reveals very few people sympathizing with Lewis and his followers. This appears to be the situation among every class of people, high and low. Especially are the "low" antagonistic to Lewis, for the peo

Continued on Page Two



NO FOOLING—HE NEEDS IT . . . Rickford Ray Schmidt, 10 days old, isn't fooling about that toothbrush he is wielding—he really needs it! Ricky was born with that tooth, and three more on the way. The doctor says that the baby would have a full set before most babies cut their first tooth.

Old Publication Tells of Area and Its Position and Prospects

Back in 1902, January 2 to be exact, William (Bill) Holder, then editor of the once famous Shaniko Leader, published the publication of a booklet describing the area about him. Specifically his self taken territory included Prineville, The Dalles, Hood River, but main attention was given to Sherman county, its towns and its people, for Bill Holder was pretty much of a Sherman countian.

Mr. Holder was no slouch with a typewriter or a pencil, either, for words flowed from him as if from the orators of his day. He was eloquent, and if he seemed to boast it may be laid to the enthusiasm that new lands ever generate in the minds of optimists.

After describing the formation of the county he gets down to facts and relates "The first assessment made of Sherman county in the year 1889, shows the amount of property subject to taxation to have been \$617,572 and her assessment in the year 1901 shows it to be \$1,506,604"—(In 1946 it is \$9,700,000 for comparative purposes.)

But Mr. Holder goes on "In 1890 according to the census reports the population of Sherman county was 1792, while for the year 1900 it shows it to be 3477—"

"Wheat exported from the county in 1889 totalled 20,000 bushels, now it amounts to 1,500,000 annually, being about 500 bushels, for every man woman and child within her borders." (In 1946 it will be 3,000,000 or above 1500 bushels for every person.)

The ability to grow fine horses and mules, cattle and sheep, was praised, and "the choicest cherries, plums, apricots, pears and big rosy-cheeked apples do well and bear in abundance."

Continued on Page Two

plantes on earth, a rich and productive soil, loving and law abiding people, and undeveloped possibilities that are destined to make Sherman county out of the richest and most sought after counties in the state."

The detailed picture of the towns with officers, lodge officers pictures of residences, of business buildings makes an old timer sigh and the new timer laugh. But it is history.

Snow Leaves With West Wind, Rain

The six to eight inches of snow of last week disappeared this week under the warm west wind accompanied by intermittent rains. Little remains except on north slopes and where drifts were made by the wind, usually west of summertfallow fields.

The county road crew, Earl Rehr reports, found a drift near the Harper place north of Klondike that was a good six feet deep.

The earth was unfrozen permitting the moisture to penetrate so little was lost except on steep slopes.

Auxiliary Wants 1,000,000 Members

One million members is the goal of the American Legion Auxiliary for 1947, Mrs. Dorothy Dunlap, chairman of the local auxiliary unit, announced today as the unit continued enrollment of old and new members for the coming year.

With 800,000 members enrolled for 1946, the auxiliary is already the largest woman's organization of its kind in the world Mrs. Dunlap explained. Further increase is being sought to give still greater strength to its program of service for veterans and their families, and its work for the security of America.

Our work attracted 165,000 new members during the past year, largely young women of World War II families. We are offering to them an opportunity to aid the disabled veterans and needy veterans families, and to help make sure that the things for which the war was fought are not lost in time of peace.

Continued on Page Two

Moro Has Lower Communities Millage Than Average City

Moro has the lowest tax levy of any city in Oregon except for nine towns that made no levy at all. These are Antelope, Cornucopia, Fossil, Goble, Granite, Halfway, Juntura, Shaniko, and Vernonia. Moro's levy is 2.2 mills.

Total assessed valuation of all towns is \$569,427,623 and the average millage for cities is 21.0 mills, slightly higher than for the previous years. Cities under \$500 have an average millage of 16.7 and the larger the town the larger the tax on the average.

Of the state's 201 cities 98 have larger taxes this year and 85 have lower taxes. The others are the same or have changed so much in area as to not be comparable. City valuations are up in 164 cities which would normally lower millages.

Moro has an assessed valuation of \$537 per capita. Wasco \$684 and Grass Valley \$596. Portland has a per capita valuation of \$1041 and some towns have considerably less than \$100 in this regard, the average being some what similar to the towns of this county.

Parrish Speaks On Wheat League List

Phil Parrish, editor of the Oregonian editorial page, will give the story of his recent European trip at the Eastern Oregon Wheat League banquet at the close of the annual session in LaGrande, December 18.

His speech will be one of the high lights of the program which will include E. J. Bell of the Farm Credit Administration, E. R. Jackman, who will talk on soil saving methods, Judge Ivan Merrick of Pasco, Wn., who will talk about wheat rates and prices.

Reports will be made on special subjects such as the livestock show to be given in The Dalles next spring and the increased freight rate hearing at Salt Lake. Regular committees will report on federal programs, soil conservation, legislation, and production problems.

Older Veterans Most Often Jobless

Oregon's typical unemployed veteran is well along in his thirties, semi-skilled, lives in town, may have a minor disability, worked both before and after the war, probably had some special occupation during hostilities, has been out of work 8 or 9 months, has contacted several employers and the local employment office but hasn't found suitable work where he can get housing.

Special interviews with nearly 700 long-time claimants produced these results as tabulated by the State Unemployment Compensation Commission. As administrator for the Readjustment Allowance section of the GI Bill of Rights in Oregon, the commission pointed out that only about 3 1/2% of the 110,000 returned veterans now were drawing readjustment allowances and that very few cases of outright "chiselling" had been unearthed by repeated investigations.

Lastest count showed 54,382 veterans claims, of which 3,195 were for self-employment allowances. Claimants who drew at least one check numbered 46,582 while 152 received their full allowances, now averaging over \$800 each. Veterans discharged after ten months or more service are entitled to 52 weekly allowances of \$20 while seeking suitable work.

Republican Women Talking Taxes

The Sherman County Council of Republican Women will meet at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Rolfe in Grass Valley on Tuesday, December 3, at 2:00 p. m. The unit is extending an invitation to all eligible women to join us now as we are beginning our 1947 programs. We can promise them interesting, worth while activities which will count for the welfare of the veterans and the future of the nation.

Communities Choose Men For Committeemen

Election of community committeemen and alternates for community offices under the soil conservation program, together with delegates to attend the county committee meeting and elect county officers, was done in the county last week with five communities participating.

Elected at Wasco were: Kenneth Fridley, chairman, Leon Smith, vice chairman, Roland Johnson member, George Drinkard Jr. alternate and Donald Macnab, alternate. Art Smith, delegate and O. G. Hilderbrand, alternate.

At Locust Grove: Paulen Kaseberg, chairman, C. Allan Tom, vice-chairman, Paul Alley, member, L. E. Kaseberg, alternate, H. M. Zell, alternate, Paulen Kaseberg, delegate and Francis Watkins alternate.

Moro: Garrol Sayrs, chairman, A. J. Bucholtz, vice-chairman, Donald Martin, member, Russell Belshee, alternate, A. Douma alternate, Russell Belshee, delegate, and Dewey Thompson alternate.

Grass Valley: Roy Schilling, chairman, Norris Gilkison, vice-chairman, D. L. Reynolds, member, Bernard Martin, alternate, Willard Barnett, alternate, Roy Schilling delegate and Norris Gilkison alternate.

Kent: George Wilson, chairman, J. J. Decker, vice-chairman, Jay McKay, member, Harley McKav alternate, Wm. Buehler alternate, Frank vonBorstel delegate and J. J. Decker alternate.

Vet Security Must Be Applied For

Survivors of qualified veterans who died within three years of their discharge but before the effective date of the amendment, August 10, 1946, have until midnight, February 10, 1947, to file either original claims for monthly benefits or applications for benefits' recomputation if they are to receive retroactive benefits payable to the month of the veteran's death. Vernon A. Welton, manager of the La Grande field office of the Social Security Administration explained today. Claims for lump-sum benefits on the records of such veterans may be filed within six months of the enactment or within two years of the death of the veteran. Claims for monthly benefits other than retroactive may be filed at any time by qualified persons.

Farm Credit Agency In New Hands

All Sherman farm credit needs formerly taken care of by the Farm Security administration and the Emergency Crop and Feed loan program will now be served through County Farmers' Home Administration office, No. 3 Vogt Building, The Dalles, announces Elmer H. Lierman, Interim County FHA Supervisor.

"The Farmers Home Administration is authorized to make annual seed and feed loans as well as longer-time loans with farm and home plans for purchase of needed livestock, equipment and farm operating goods," Lierman said. "Forty-year farm ownership loans and special water facility loans are also continued under FHA. Eventually all former farm security and feed loan accounts will be consolidated in the FHA office, including all servicing and collections."

Production and operating loan limits, formerly \$2,500 under FSA and \$400 under ECFL are set at \$3,500 for initial loans in any one year, Lierman explained. These loans cannot run more than five percent. The interest rate on years and interest remains at farm ownership loans is raised from three to three and one-half percent and broader authorizes are given for farm development and improvements. Water facility loan terms are unchanged.

RED CROSS TO MEET

The Sherman County Chapter of the American Red Cross will hold its regular board meeting at the Courthouse in Moro, Monday evening, December 2, at 7:30. Work on the budget will be resumed.

Garrett, Foster Chosen As Best Players of Year

Public acclaim to the members of the 1946 Moro High School football was accorded them here Monday night when parents and friends joined in a dinner in their honor. The Breakfast club was sponsor of the occasion.

Welcome to the group was given by LeRoy Wright, club president, and Ed Fritts, team captain responded with words of thanks. Ray Jewel, school superintendent, took over then as toastmaster to introduce Priscilla Melzer and Marie Blagg, yell queens, who led the elders and the youngsters in some vocal team spirit.

Coach Jacob Ferguson presented awards and letters for the year, with some appropriate comments thereon. Opening of the ballot box containing the votes of squad members on the most valuable player resulted in Billy Garrett being chosen to receive that honor. Garrett was also chosen as best lineman of the year and Tommie Foster was voted the best backfield man of the year.

Dewey Thompson showed some local football pictures as well as the movies of the 1945 football game between Oregon-OSC.

The squad receiving the acclaim of the county's citizens consisted of the following: Seniors: Keith Bayer, Bill Platt, Tommie Foster, Ed Fritts, Bill Garrett, Bob Hoskins, Herb Lawrence, Alan Pinkerton, Dean Smith, Carl von Borstel and Dick Wilson. Juniors: James Hartley, Dick Oveson, Herman Peters, Phil vonBorstel, and Carl Zeigler. Sophomores: Robert Harris, Joe Harvey, and Keith Thompson. Freshmen: Scott Fritts, Bob Garrett, Donald Guant, Eddie Justesen, Wily Knighton, Jr., Ronnie May, David Moore and George vonBorstel.

PP&L Starting Plan Of Rebuilding

First steps have been taken in a building program which will see more than \$130,000 spent on Pacific Power & Light company's Sherman power system, G. L. Corey, The Dalles district manager, announced today.

The Sherman system serves Oregon's rich wheat-growing area in Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam and Morrow counties.

The program calls for extensive improvements and additions to the Dufur substation, from which the Sherman system is fed. In addition, approximately 18 miles of new 22,000-volt transmission line will be built in Morrow county, replacing the present 11,000-volt line from Ione to Heppner.

Surveys for the Heppner line already have been made, Corey said, but actual construction depends on availability of electrical materials. An acute nationwide shortage still exists in these items.

Changes at Dufur substation call for increasing transformer capacity five-fold, from the present 1500 kva to 7500, and installing a 300-kva regulator. Alterations in the substation to accommodate the regulator, now in transit, have been completed.

Transformer capacity at the substation has been increased one third as a temporary measure until the larger transformers arrive and are installed, Corey said.

SHANIKO NEWS

Ivan Olson was here looking after his business Wednesday giving John Reeder a chance to make a trip to The Dalles. Both returned home Friday.

Mrs. R. J. Kenney returned to Madras Thursday after visiting her home here for several days.

Mrs. Amanda Fine and Mrs. Rosa Harris were visitors in The Dalles Monday.

Bill Garrett was here last week end to visit his mother, coming from Grass Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Rees, and daughter, Mary Jo and Mrs. Walter W. Hart, all of Portland, were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Rees, returning home Sunday.

Leo Hahn of the Prieville Land and Livestock ranch at Muddy was a Monday business visitor.

Mr. and Mrs. Andy Patien were visitors last week in Lebanon and other valley towns returning Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. James Phifer and children went to The Dalles Tuesday.

Committees Start Work On Wheat League Program

Committees of the Eastern Oregon Wheat League for Sherman county met at the court house Monday and Tuesday to consider the problems confronting the wheat grower in this year of 1946 and made due resolution thereon for transmittal to the general assembly of the league which will be held in LaGrande December 16-18.

The group concerned principally with federal programs and land use under the chairmanship of Wallace May asked for continuance of the program with the farmers from the federal department that represents them was also a request.

This committee advocates active efforts toward erosion control, saying that all life depended on the continued fertility of the soil. The group favored the continuance of the loans, crop insurance, with improvements, and voluntary soil conservation districts as well as payments for conservation practices. A 35 cent minimum for farmers who try trashy fallow methods was recommended.

Sales Tax Asked

The taxation and legislation group met Monday afternoon with Millard Eakin as chairman. It recommended that a sales tax be passed to raise the money necessary for the basic school bill, recently passed. It recalled that the County Unit plan had long been advocated by the league and that the rural school districts bill, also passed, was a step toward that desirable end.

A recommendation that tax assessment and collection be consolidated into one office was passed as well as one objecting to exemptions from property and other taxes. The group favored the elimination of the property tax for state purposes and asked that a review of assessments be made regularly both for county and state.

Paulen Kaseberg was chairman of the Production and Marketing committee which met Tuesday morning. It pointed to the danger of seeding Elgin and similar wheats because of their susceptibility to smut, and recommended very careful selection of seed and adequate treatment. Local elevators were asked to provide places for storing of certified seed. Continuation of the fight against noxious weeds was asked, and better machinery with which to prevent erosion was held a need. Use of wheat for glucose and alcohol was another recommendation. Opposition to the impending freight rate increase was voiced.

Less Wheat For 1947 Is PMA Wish

The PMA, legitimate successor to AAA, is asking Oregon farmers to cut down wheat production, by eight percent in 1947. Acreage of 1,000,000 instead of 1,085,000 is the government request.

This is one of the state goals that are now being broken down into county goals by the state force. Few great changes are among the suggestions, which may be, or may not be followed by the farmer who actually does the planting.

Goals that apply to Sherman county are: Spring pligs, increase from 23,000 to 25,000 or nine percent. Conditions suggest a probable need for more pigs.

Rye is to remain the same, sugar beets may increase ten percent to 22,000 acres, another example of a moderate approach toward the scarcity.

The dry pea crop will be the same, 22,000 if PMA recommendations are followed but Austrian peas are to be increased 72 percent to 25,000 acres.

The request is for a 13 percent drop in the potato acreage down to 45,400 acres, this in the face of a big potato crop, federally guaranteed prices much above competitive price level. Potatoes can now be bought very cheaply for stock feed.

Harvey Miller, chief of Oregon's PMA, says that the need for good crops to meet domestic demand and send aid to devastated countries, is the reason for the comparatively high goals requested.