

Sherman County Journal

Fifty-Ninth Year No. 37

Moro, Oregon, Friday, July 18, 1947

Official County Paper

These Things We Note Hail Hurts Crops in 30 Mile Sweep

Joint Rate Case Hearing Set For Monday Next

by Giles L. French

Hail again! This time when the wheat was actually being cut in some spots. As far as distance traveled and damage done this was one of the worst hail storms in the county's history.

Instead of going across the county on a 45 degree angle the storm this year went lengthwise, coming in at Buck Hollow and going out at Rufus, and doing some damage all the way through. The high price of wheat makes this hail storm the most expensive in dollars, too, although others have really "put the crimp" in farmers' woe. Back in 1914 when a farmer lost a crop he was ready to hit the road unless he owed so much the banker wouldn't let him go.

Several young farmers were hit this time. It's pretty rough treatment to have the wings clipped before they're really grown out. Psychologically, however, it may not be so bad. Folks used to say, before there was so much money in the country, that a young fellow who got a good crop his first year was due for a failure. He would fly too high on his wings, was the theory.

More people are hurt by prosperity than by adversity, some say. Maybe they're right. We've known men to be hurt by both in the space of five or ten years and they always did more complaining over adversity.

Maybe we need a bureau of hail belt research. (Imagine us mentioning another bureau). The hail belt has changed. Once it used to start on Hans Koepke's and Bibby's and go belting cross the county to come out about straight east of Grass Valley. That country has been free of hail for some time now (business of crossing the fingers). Wonder what made it change.

Farmers are supposed, according to law, to have a little sticker pasted on their combines which quotes the law regarding cleaning of threshing machines, hay balers, etc., before moving onto another field. The idea being, we presume, that if a man sticks the thing on his machines curiously will cause him to read it.

The law applies in all weed control districts and Sherman county is a weed control district. There's plenty to do, too as every year is seems the morning glory patches are bigger and bigger. Spraying may kill the annual weeds and some people may be able to hold the morning glory in check.

There must be a dozen who don't, to one who does, and if it goes on the weed control committee will invoke the penalty clauses of the law: AND that will be rough. Already penalties have been neglected until it will be hard to stop the weeds, and if wheat goes down to sixty cents there won't be much value to some pieces of land.

The senate has restored most all of the funds for agriculture that were tentatively taken out by the house. That was to be expected. Although no small part of the funds could be better expended, it is better to have an appropriation for them with hopes that a reorganization will bring about better administration.

Nothing is as important to the nation as soil conservation, but a good many things are as important as the soil conservation service, which gives advice when information is what is needed.

It's pretty hard to get much done at that without authority. There is no law that will permit the government, federal, state or county to do anything to a farmer who won't take care of his land. He can let the wind blow it away (except in Oregon, where there is a law) the water wash it down the creek or the weeds take it (with some exceptions) and it's his and little or nothing can be done about it.

That's the way we like it. But maybe a fascist or other dictator country would do a quicker job of enforcing better farming practices. And then again there might be no one with nerve en-

Water, and what to do about it, Causes Council Confab

A special council meeting held Tuesday night permitted further discussion of the water situation and gave the water committee an opportunity to give a partial report on its commission to investigate all phases of water system improvement.

Report made by Clyde Gillmor was that Frank Bennett could come to drill a well as soon as he has finished his present contract on the Jones place and that Stanley Swett of Wasco would wish for water. The committee asked for authority to expend funds to hire Mr Swett which was granted.

By asking that no watering be done for several days the city made it possible to raise the water level in the cistern so that all residents could get water for domestic use. Since Tuesday watering of lawns and gardens has been permitted on a half of the city each day. Thursday morning the water level was down again and unless care is used in irrigating the residents of the hill will be out of water again which will necessitate further regulation. Care in watering will make it possible for everyone to have water.

Deer Hunting Made Illegal In Sherman

The state game commission has closed Sherman county for the hunting of deer for the 1947 season according to announcement made after the July 11 meeting for the purpose of setting open seasons and bag limits. Sherman is the only closed area for deer hunting, except special areas for bow and arrow. The general deer season will be October 1 to 20.

The elk season will be October 25 to November 16 and will include that area east of Highway 97 and north of the John Day highway. South of the John Day highway there will be an open season October 22 to November 2.

First National Gives Figures On Branches

A report released by the First National Bank on deposits and loans made its numerous branches throughout Oregon shows deposits of \$1,547,943.40 as of June 30. Other branches in territory similar to the Sherman County Branch were Fossil \$1,670,737.14, Condon \$2,099,593.84 and The Dalles \$3,761,220.43. Heppner had \$4,365,618.13.

Loans of \$106,525.13 were listed for the local branch slightly above Condon at \$102,560.80 and far below Fossil with \$221,201.81. Out of town branches of the parent bank had loans of \$43,088,792.12 and deposits of \$193,432,454.59.

PI Entries Coming In Rapidly Already

One hundred thirty-seven live-stock breeders from eight western states and Canada have flooded the Pacific International Live-stock Exposition offices in Portland with advance requests for stalls and pens. This is so far ahead of the years previous that a new record is in the making this far in advance of the show according to Walter Holt, manager of the exposition which is scheduled for October 3-11.

A warning to old friends and exhibitors of the P. I. that stall space will become very scarce if the present high tide of demand continues was issued by Holt. He urged that all who intend to show send in word at once concerning their interests to avoid disappointment. Dairy cattle exhibitors led the field with notices of intent to show more than 600 head. This does not include dual purpose cattle which totalled 128.

ough to speak up as to what was good or bad and maybe even the experiments would be rigged.

Last week with a brief glance out the window we made comment on the excellence of the weather. And it rained before night. And look what has happened since.

Harvest Returns Continue To Satisfy Farmers

The hail of Monday afternoon served to delay the harvest over a part of the county as rain hit in many places where there was no hail. Consequently fewer machines are cutting than had been expected.

It is hardly possible to obtain a complete picture of possible yields to date but prospects for a good crop still continue. Only known result is that on 59.2 acres north of Collis Moore's house which lacked 19 bushels of making 35 bushels per acre. Frank Says reports the Holman place in Alicel as going nearly 40 bushels but the cutting is not finished and is not positive.

Reports from the point district indicate returns of about what had been expected earlier. Yields are 15 bushels and over. Many farmers are cutting barley which matures earlier than wheat and have not yet started on their major crop. Barley is making as much as a ton and three-quarters per acre according to reports. The price is \$60 per ton so barley growers will fare well.

Harvesters at Grass Valley are getting from 20 to 25 bushels, based on first figures of bushels and acres per round. Crops are generally better than had been expected earlier if these first harvest returns continue.

West of Wasco there are reports that E. H. and Fritz Watkins are getting 40 and 45 bushels per acre. Claude Thompson reports his Hay Canyon ranch as making 17 bushels when harvest ended. Dewey Thompson's made a little more and Dewey often says that his ranch is always near normal.

W. F. Jackson came up from The Dalles Wednesday to look over what remained of his wheat crop in Sherman county.

Loss of Life In Road Accidents Less In May

Oregon set an all-time low in traffic accident deaths for May with a fatality ratio of 4.2 for every 100 million miles of motor vehicle travel, Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell Jr., has announced.

Accident records show nineteen deaths in May despite a new high in traffic volume for the month as Oregon motorists clocked 450,436,202 miles to lowest rate of deaths to total miles travelled in state's history.

"The drop appears little short of miraculous when compared to the death rate of 10.7 in May of last year," Farrell said.

Forty persons died on Oregon streets and highways in May, 1946, while total mileage for that month was 394,033,140. The new record erases a previous low set in February, 1941, when the rate was 5.1 for less than 19 million miles of travel.

Storm Goes North East

First to be hurt was the crops of Don Clodfelter and Ben Payne, the latter losing all but 50 acres of a 600 acre crop. Bud Brinkert, Arzell Lemley, Paul Wilson, Millard Eakin, Dick Reckman, Art Schilling, Hugo Manke, Norris Gilkison, Tom Coyle, G. Douma, Max Brown, Ralph Rust, El Amidon, Afton McIntyre, Art Smith, Eben Kee, Bob King, Lamer Says, Willard Barnett, Wendell Balsiger, Carroll Says, Peters & Ginn, Tex Irzyk, Max Barzee, Landry, Charley Powell, E. R. Barzee, and Harry Pinkerton were in the main line of the storm and all were damaged from completely to as little as ten percent. Most completely wiped out were Payne, Reckman, Manke, and Gilkison who will get nothing except perhaps a little feed or seed. Others had grain outside the storm belt or did not have theirs entirely destroyed.

As the storm moved northward it lost the force of the hail as it turned more to rain. At Wasco a heavy shower fell that the gutters could not handle and at Rufus there was also a heavy rain.

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Hail stones were described as odd-shaped and like "ice cubes" in size. Great difference between the effect of the hail on varieties of grain can be noted. Barley, generally ripe and with bowed heads, was severely damaged whenever hit. Peters & Ginn had cut seven rounds on 200 acres of barley that was estimated at better than a ton and a half. The entire crop was almost totally ruined and will not be cut at all. Other barley fields were also badly damaged.

Elgin or Alicel, club wheats, with brittle straw, snapped off littering the ground with fallen heads. Rex, a tougher necked wheat, bent its heads over and some of them may be saved if cutting can be done soon. If not, however, damage to Rex may be as severe as that to Alicel. Federation heads were often riddled, losing meshes from top to bottom. In many cases the wheat that fell on the ground was driven below the surface by the hail and rain until little can be seen.

Storm Spotted

Little rain fell at either Grass Valley or Moro. John DeMoss did not stop harvesting at his place near DeMoss. East of Moro it rained merely enough to stop the threshing but farther east Art Bucholtz and Wes Nichols had a near cloudburst that drenched their fields.

The storm passed through some of the better parts of the county and fields damaged would in some cases, have made upwards to 40 bushels per acre. Even on the thinner land that was hit the crop was good as the weather for the past month and a half has been favorable. The average crop on the area hit would probably have been 30 bushels.

Hail insurance was carried by Manke Bros. on their entire crop and Millard Eakin was also covered by hail insurance. Others had taken out federal crop insurance

New Moro Principal Elected Vice-President Of National Ass'n

Election of Kenneth G. Young, new principal of the Moro schools, as one vice-president of the National Education Association at its meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio. Mr Young is attending the association meeting as a delegate from Oregon, having been chosen from the section including Long Creek where he has taught for the past year. D. D. Williams was the delegate from the area which includes Sherman county.

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POWELL-NOONAN ACCIDENT

W. S. Powell and Jack Noonan made a trip to Condon last Friday and suffered an accident which badly damaged the Powell car. Noonan received a jammed shoulder and Powell was unhurt.

Dalles Military Road Company Sold To Edward Martin in 1876 Ending Brief, Profitable Existence

Neither the official record nor rumor has anything to say about the further activities of the Dalles Military Road company. None of the land was sold. There was no one to buy it, for settlers had not started to come into the area covered by the road by 1871. Even the mining at Canyon City ceased after a year or so and the need for a road was less than before. The Indians, too, were quiet with the killing of Chief Paulina in 1867.

On the 31st of May the Dalles Military Road company executed a deed to Edward Martin of San Francisco for all the lands granted to the company by the act of congress and of the legislature. All patents and rights to patents under an act of congress authorizing patents in certain cases were also granted to the purchaser. Consideration was \$125,000. P. J. Martin, signed as president of the Dalles Military, and C. N. Thornbury as secretary. Mr Martin testified that the directors of the company had authorized the sale May 30.

Appended thereto was the seal of the company. It is still well preserved and its imprint shows mountains, horned cattle, a plow, man with a single horse, a sheaf of wheat, a spade and a sickle. For ten years the affairs of the company were constantly in the courts. Edward Martin early in 1877 gave to D. V. B. Henarie, a lawyer, a quarter of the company in trust. Then Edward Martin died, leaving a widow, Eleanor, and five minor children and three adult children.

The record of the company is one of trusteeships and of deeds given from one member of the family to another. At one time the company, still going under the name of the Dalles Military Road company, agreed to sell to an English company for \$600,000. Apparently the widow had some difficulty trying to raise her children and hold onto the property left her by her husband.

Then August 11, 1884 the group

But the men who came in from 1880 to 1886 were here to stay. They settled down in the little draws where a spring could be found, and built their cabins and stretched wire around their corrals and barns. The company had no distinguishing mark on the land it owned and the men who were locating settlers knew little or nothing about whether land was open to entry or not. Many homesteaders lived on Eastern Oregon Land company land for years before finding out they could not obtain patent to it.

There was much resentment against the company whose practices in treating homesteaders was anything but diplomatic. In August 1899 the United States brought the Eastern Oregon Land Company into the federal Circuit Court of Oregon in a suit to set aside the certificate of the Governor of Oregon giving the lands to the Dalles Military Road company but the court held for the company in a decision handed down the following February. The Supreme Court of the United States upheld the lower court in March of 1893.

On September 29, 1890 the Secretary of Interior wrote to the General Land Office saying that the lands in question were part of the public domain and should be open to entry. Action of the courts made this opinion an error, although it did serve to complicate matters as far as the settlers were concerned. John D. Wilcox and E. I. Messenger brought suit against the company in 1896 and took it to the Supreme Court where the decision was against them.

This ended legal action against the company. Some homesteaders had been successful in making trades with the company to protect their home sites from being taken but in general the company proved its case and obtained possession of all the land in the grant, some 592,557.89 acres.

Loss Estimated at Over \$250,000; Some Farmers Lose Entire Crop

A hail storm came roaring up out of Buck Hollow Monday afternoon and traveled the entire length of the county to cross the Columbia at Rufus. During its passage it damaged some 10,000 acres of standing grain for what is estimated at 10 bushels each, which means 100,000 bushels less for the farmers of the county to sell and 100,000 bushels less for the world to eat. Cost of the damage is estimated at between \$200,000 and \$250,000.

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Others lost a percentage of the crop ranging up to 50 or 60 percent but in most cases will still harvest at a profit.

There were other farmers whose lands were on the edge of the storm who suffered some damage was done to some summerfallow by washing and many farmers are going to have an extra job of weeding. In the heavier part of the storm the wetting may do the fallow some good to compensate for a part of the loss.

Reports from Gilliam and Morrow counties are that serious damage was done to grain there on the same day. A section north of Ione was hit but much of the grain had been cut there. Southwest of Ione, near the head of Rock Creek, another storm damaged crops from 25 to 75 percent say reports. Total loss in the storm in this area may be \$500,000.

KENT NEWS

Mr and Mrs Jay McKay entertained Saturday evening with a dinner party. The guests included Mrs Ella Dunlap of Sutherland, Wash., Mr and Mrs Clarence Cooley of Stevenson, Wash., Mr and Mrs George McKay of Bay City, Mr and Mrs John Koepke of Redmond, Mrs Ray McKay and Kenneth and E. C. Smith and Billy.

Mrs Edna Schilling of The Dalles was an overnight visitor at the home of her parents, Mr and Mrs Alfred Lyons Saturday. Bobetta and Duane, who have been visiting relatives in the Kent district for the past two weeks, returned with her to The Dalles.

Bob Johnson of Sacramento, who has been visiting for the past week at the home of his daughter Mrs George Wilson returned home Friday.

Mr and Mrs Amandus von Bortel and sons, Fred and Philip, and daughter Mary Louise were Sunday evening callers at the Verne Mobley home.

Mr and Mrs Tom Preese and son of Cardiff-by-the-Sea were overnight visitors Friday at the George Wilson home.

Mr and Mrs George Wilson, John Decker and son, Arthur, William Mitchell and Allan Bekkedahl flew to Sunnyside, Wash., for the air show and breakfast.

Mr and Mrs Joe Stayton of Bend were overnight visitors Saturday at the home of Judge and Mrs. J. M. Wilson.

Mr and Mrs George Wilson and sons motored to The Dalles Monday. Paul remained at the home of his uncle and aunt, Mr and Mrs J. H. Wilson for a visit.

Misses Connie and Dorothy Wilson returned Tuesday from a weeks visit at the home of Dr and Mrs Joe Wilson of Moscow, Idaho.

Dinner guests Sunday at the home of Judge and Mrs J. M. Wilson were Mr and Mrs Joe Stayton of Bend, Mrs Paul Wilson and son, Kelly, Mr and Mrs Lester Wilson and daughters and Edwin Smith of The Dalles.

Mr and Mrs Lester Wilson and daughters, Karen and Nancy and Edwin Smith were dinner guests Thursday at the home of Edwin's parents, Dr and Mrs E. Noel Smith of The Dalles.