

# Sherman County Journal

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Official County Paper

## These Things We Note

by Giles L. French

Edgar Lee Masters in his Spoon River Anthology has Alexander Throckmorton give this bit of sane philosophy:

"In youth my wings were strong and tireless,  
But I did not know the mountains.  
In age I knew the mountains  
But my weary wings could not follow my vision—  
Genius is wisdom and youth."

From some angles the Indian appears to be a smarter man economically than does his white brother. Worries of international affairs are not his, nor do national matters excite him unless they be about fish or hunting grounds, state and county affairs (those which have to do with taxes) do not concern him at all.

When the white man with his huge and insatiable ambition took over the land to do with as he pleased he inherited the Indian as a permanent guest. Probably the Indian got the best of the bargain.

"White men build roads, put up the buildings, plant the lawns, do the bookkeeping and worrying. The Indian does the fishing and hunting and the squaws pick the berries. Every day is Sunday for the Indian."

As long as the country was populated only by Indians it became a little better each year. The timber, grew unmolested and annual fires to burn the forest dross were not big enough to destroy the trees. The horses were not numerous enough to eat all the grass and erosion was no problem. No dams handicapped the fish.

Nature was bountiful to the Indian and since the white man took over nature and its gifts he also took over nature's care for the Indian.

Probably nature did a better job although the Indian seems to do pretty well as it is.

Wonder what those weather beaten old philosophers think as they loil in the shade while the white man goes rushing by to sell something no one really needs, to make a speech no one wants to hear, to get to a meeting no one enjoys or to grab a few hours fishing as surcease from daily toil. White men die of heart trouble; Indians die of old age.

The hullabaloo about dinners for people who were trying to get a government contract for airplanes would make little news under ordinary circumstances. It is a sort of summer madness we undergo each year. Salesmen take prospective customers out to dinner. Size of the check and quality of the entertainment depends on the price of the product.

It is not likely that everyone buys an automobile from any salesman who takes him out for entertainment. If it were true the best salesmen would be those with the greatest eating and drinking capacity.

The fact that Hughes obtained the contract or whether he should have or not probably did not depend on the size of the dinner checks. In any event, if it did the officials granting it do not belong in public service. What is important is that no planes were delivered on the contract.

This has been a slow harvest handicapped by several sorts of bad weather. Besides the old harvest days are gone when crews raced to beat each other and the urgency of the job was felt in the air. Harvest is a job these days; it used to be an adventure.

"For some men die by shrapnel  
And some go down in flames;  
But most men perish inch by inch  
In play at little games."  
Robert D. Abrahams

A drivers license examiner is scheduled to be on duty in Moro Thursday, August 14, 1947 at the courthouse between the hours of 10 a. m. and 3 p. m.

## VFW Buys Church Building For New Meeting Place

The Veterans of Foreign Wars has bought the Christian Science church building and will make a club room of it, according to Darwin Van Gilder, adjutant of the post.

The building, originally built for a store, was remodeled by the members of the Christian Science society and used as a church for many years until the membership became smaller. Decision to sell was made recently.

The building is on Main street between Second and Third.

## Cost of Living Up For Farmers

Rural living costs nationally are 25 percent higher than a year ago and more than double those of 1935-1939, according to an analysis of USDA data by OSC extension agricultural economists. Thus, the real net income of farmers is not to be judged alone by prices for farm products, or even by the dollar income.

It takes five farm family dollars to buy the goods and services that could be bought for four dollars a year ago. Meanwhile farm production expenses increased overall at approximately the same rate as the general level of prices for farm products.

The real income of farm families has declined rather sharply thus far in 1947, the economist report. At mid-June the U. S. index of all commodities used for farm families maintenance stood at 253 percent of 1910-1914, 11 points higher than at mid-January. Meanwhile, the cost index representing all commodities bought by farmers for production rose faster than the general average of prices received for farm products. The result was a double-action decrease in overall real farm income.

Compared with January, the general level of farm prices received, at 271 in June, was up 11 points to stand at 229 at mid-June. The parity index of farm costs including interest and taxes, but not labor, stood at 230. Farm wages rates nationally were at 397 percent of 1910-1914, on April 1, the latest figures available.

In terms of parity the overall buying power of farm products has declined from 132 at the peak last October to 118 at mid-June. There was a decline of 1 point from mid-May to mid-June. The decline was due to a slight increase in prices paid by farmers and a slight decrease in the average of prices received for farm products.

## Scales Over State Need Much Repair

With about one-third of the 450 heavy duty scales tested in Oregon during May and June condemned until repaired, deputy state sealers point to some factors which are causing the unusually large percentage of errors in scales, and to some causes which owners and operators themselves may correct.

The trouble lies in three main sources: improper original installation; improper operation; and poor maintenance or none at all. Wartime difficulties, ranging from inability to replace worn parts, absence of new equipment in the markets and fewer competent scale mechanics should not be in good condition.

Don E. Duffield, deputy state sealer of weights and measures in charge of this work for the state department of agriculture, says that more than 50 per cent of the scales tested in May and June "had not been maintained properly and were exceedingly dirty. So much dirt was found in several scale pits that the lever system and weigh-bridge were solidly imbedded. Beam notches partially filled with dirt also make accurate weighing impossible. Many of the older scales had settled far out of line due to decayed or insufficient foundation.

Most of the older scales, designed for weighing wagons on front and rear axles instead of the present day truck which has 80 per cent of its load on the rear axles are badly overloaded. A wagon type scale will only weigh trucks to three-quarters the capacity of the scale.



GENUINE UNITED NATIONS SPIRIT . . . The diplomatic gentlemen who are wrangling around the peace tables at Lake Success, N. Y., might do well to drop in on the 35th anniversary encampment of the International Girl Scouts at Camp Barco, Pa., for an object lesson in how to get along with one another. Shown here are some of the Girl Scout delegates who came from all the states and a score of foreign countries to attend the three-week encampment.

## New Method of Keeping Tax Records Held Simpler and More Accurate When Complete

A method of handling the tax roll has been introduced into the county assessor's and sheriff's offices. It has been called a machine system and is partly done by machines although not to a full extent. More machines will be added later if the county court and budget committee so decide.

Sheets are stamped with the taxpayer's name and address and also a description of the property. These stamps are made on an addressograph which makes it unnecessary to change them until a new ownership occurs.

In figuring of taxes the county is divided into groups which are designated by codes. This year each school district has a different code number. Cities that are a part of a school district bear the same number as the district and the part outside the city has the suffix "A" as there is a different rate applying.

There are 21 of these codes and seven of them have the same tax rate, that being the general county tax, the special road tax and the non-high school tax. School districts having a special levy will have more taxes to pay.

For instance Code 1 is the Biglow school district where property owners pay only the county, special road and non high taxes. Code 3 in the Rufus district which is still paying on the school bonds. Its millage is 30.6. That part of the Rufus district not paying on the old bonds is SA and has a millage of 28.6. A code called R3 is set up in case Rufus decides to incorporate and levy city taxes.

Code 4 has a millage of 13.5; Code 5 of 15.2; code 7 which is Wasco has a millage of 50, and 7A the part of the Wasco school district outside of town, has a millage of 32.3.

Code 9, has 27.3 and there is a code K9 in case Kent wants to be city some day. Code 13 has 13.5; code 15 has 24.3, code 16 has 13.5 code 17 has 20.8 and code 17A has the same because there are no city taxes in Moro this year.

Code 20 and 21 have a millage of 13.5, code 22 has 14.7 code 23 has 32.1 and code 23A the Grass Valley district outside of that town has 22.7. code 30 has a millage of 13.5.

On the tax notices will appear the code number, the millage, the valuation and the total taxes. If the taxpayer wants to know how much of his taxes goes to city, county or school district he may inquire.

This year the general fund levy is 4.1 mills, the special road fund is 4.1 mills, the non-high levy is 2.1 mills and the general road fund levy is 3.2 mills. This makes 13.5 mills which everyone has to pay.

In school districts having a special levy (there are nine) there will be an additional tax varying from 1.2 mills at Boardman to 20.9 at Wasco. In cities there will be the city tax to pay.

## Spring Wheats Best Winter In Station Trials

Spring wheats were much better in yield than fall wheat at the experiment station this year, markedly better, according to the returns figured by M. M. Oveson, superintendent.

A cross between Rio and Allice made the best yield, 19.7 bushels, smaller than many commercial fields but serving just as well for comparative purposes. Second was Blackhull-Oro with 18.9 for yield. Third was Local Turkey with 18.2, Rex with 18.1 and Rio-Rex with 17.6. Others trailed down to Golden with 12.8 and the composite mixture produced but 11.3.

The spring grains did much better being topped by a Baart Hard Federation cross which made 26.1 bushels. It is usually a good yielding wheat says Mr Oveson. A Federation Bunyip cross made 23.0, Baart made 22.0, White Federation 21.4, Marfed 20.3 and Comet 20.2. Hard Federation was hurt the worst and returned a yield of but 12.9 bushels.

Those who saw the variety trials at the station late in June could determine that the yield was not going to be large as there was considerable damage from weather. Comparisons between the varieties is of most importance, however, in determining the best grain to grow.

## Sherman County Picnic Due August 17

The annual Sherman county picnic for residents of Portland and vicinity who used to live here and for Sherman contains what is down to meet old friends and be held at Laurelhurst park Sunday, August 17, according to Charley Powell who is president of the group in charge of the event.

It is planned to hold a short program this year, but the visiting among people of all ages who once lived in Sherman county will be the main feature of the day.

## HARVEST GETTING ON

Harvest is getting on around the county and some farmers are already boasting that it is too late to harvest. By the end of next week most of the cutting will be done and the grain in the elevators.

The hail damage estimate grows as the fields are being cut and losses of 50 percent are now figured where 25 to 30 percent was the original estimate. The rain delayed the cutting, not only for the three days when no wheat could be accepted but by causing wet mornings and slow cutting.

## Kent Family Has Reunion With Distant Relatives

Mr and Mrs Jay McKay entertained Sunday with a dinner for a large group of friends and relatives. Those present included Mrs Ben Leatherwood and daughter, Sherre and son, Jim of Sweet, Home Mr and Mrs George McKay of Bay City, Mr and Mrs Jack McKay and daughter, Lois of Corvallis, Mrs Mary Powell and daughter, Ann, Mrs Maude Cunningham and son, Teddy, and Mr and Mrs E. C. Smith and daughter, Joyce and son, Billy.

Mr and Mrs Jack Sather and children of Corvallis were Sunday guests at the Kenneth Sather home. Jack Sather was recently released from St. Vincent's hospital in Portland.

Mr and Mrs Mahlon Tracewell and twin sons of Portland arrived Thursday at the home of Mrs Tracewell's mother Mrs Emma Davis. They plan to stay until the completion of harvest.

Mrs Ben Leatherwood and children Sherre and Jim of Sweet Home arrived Thursday at the E. C. Smith home for an extended visit. Mr and Mrs Jack McKay arrived Saturday from Corvallis for a short stay with the E. C. Smiths.

John Decker flew to Portland last Tuesday to bring Mrs Decker who has been visiting at the home of Mr and Mrs Volna Guyton. Mrs Max Pleumke and Mr Henry Mars of Portland were guests from Tuesday through Thursday

at the home of Mrs Pleumke's daughter Mrs Paul Smith. They were on the last stage of a trip which had taken them through Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks. Mike Smith accompanied his grandmother to Portland for a visit.

Mr and Mrs Paul Smith were Sunday dinner guests of Mr and Mrs Harry Justesen.

Mr and Mrs Jerry Wilson, Mr and Mrs Eugene North, Paul Wilson and son, Kelly, Gordon Erickson, and Earl Bryant spent Sunday afternoon swimming at Stiles-on-the-Deschutes.

Betty and Charles Bothwell visited from Wednesday through Monday at the home of their grandparents, Mr and Mrs Fiske Bothwell.

Judge and Mrs J. M. Wilson and grandson, Skipper went to Tygh Valley Sunday afternoon.

Rev. and Mrs Earl Hastings were Sunday dinner guests at the home of Mr and Mrs J. M. Wilson. Miss Barbara Love of Newberg is making an extended visit at the Amandus vonBorstel home as the guest of Miss Mary Louise von Borstel.

Mr and Mrs C. J. Kulick, Miss Barbara Love, Miss Mary Louise vonBorstel, Frank Sayers and Keith DeCourcy drove to Bear Springs Sunday for a picnic. Mr and Mrs Theo. Justesen of Maupin ere overnight guests Friday at the home of Mr Justesen's mother, Mrs Thora Justesen.

## Sunday Mail Service Ordered Stopped In Sherman County

Vernon Flatt has received word that Sunday mail service in Sherman county will be discontinued August 10.

This has been contemplated for some months and the service south of Moro has been discontinued for some weeks. Protests to postal officials have been of no avail and the state's congressional delegation has written about it to the postoffice department without obtaining any definite assurance of continuance. The order was given, apparently, as soon as congress adjourned.

The truck will make its trips the same as before because mail will go down Saturday night and must be brought up Monday morning. Newspapers will be brought in by another means, although less promptly.

## Tygh Fair Featuring Childrens' Exhibits

Directors of the Wasco County fair have commenced making extensive preparations for a much expanded opening day program that will be devoted principally to the interests of school children from all sections of the county, with all children admitted free of charge throughout the opening day, Friday, September 12. The fair at the county grounds near Tygh Valley will continue on through Saturday and Sunday with a wide array of rodeo events races and exhibits in the daytime, and evening programs featuring dances, fireworks, a smoker, carnival and costume dances by Indians from the nearby Warm Springs Reservation.

Sherman county school boards are invited to consider making it possible for their grade and high school children to spend the day at Tygh Valley on Friday, Sept. 12. Then newly completed hard surface road through Sherrars Bridge to Tygh Valley is now in excellent condition.

## Service Women To Start Paper

The George Bell Auxiliary Unit No. 49 of the American Legion at Kent, has been notified that the Department of Oregon is offering a new publication, "The Oregon Legionette," to all members of the Oregon Auxiliary whose dues have been paid through 1948. The first issue will be mailed August 25th to all members who are eligible to receive it.

Contact members from the drive are Mrs Clarence Young president elect of the unit for the Kent area. Mrs Donald von Borstel, unit president, Mrs A. A. Dunlap, unit secretary, Mrs Kenneth Crews, vice-president elect, and Mrs C. W. Fields, secretary elect will act for the Grass Valley area.

## SHANIKO

The local school board met July 30 and made up and had accepted the budget for the coming year. R. J. Kinney and Bill Garrett went to Madras with a load of Kinney's household goods Saturday. Mrs Kinney returned with them and stayed over until Monday evening.

George Ward was called to Portland Saturday to the bedside of his mother, Mrs L. Muhs of Antelope who is in a Portland hospital where she has been ill for some time.

Mrs Maude Garrett was in Grass Valley Sunday to attend church and visit friends.

Mr and Mrs Jack Milligan of Aurora, Illinois are visiting at the home of Mr and Mrs Jerry Johnson.

Charles Brown is in town laid up with a sore foot.

Ed Enright is here from Antelope for a few days.

Mrs Charles Carrigan met Miss Pat McCulloch at the junction Monday when she returned from Dufur where she was visiting her grandparents.

John Reeder was a visitor in Walla Walla Sunday coming home Monday.

Wheat is coming into the Shaniko warehouse from all directions as harvest progresses.

Corliss McLeod of Grass Valley wa here Sunday while on his way to Antelope.

## Utility Valuation Down Slightly; School Costs Up

County Assessor Bill Todd has received word from the state tax commission that the valuation of utilities in Sherman county for the 1947-48 tax year will be \$1,827,806, slightly less than for the previous fiscal year.

Biggest owner of utility property within the county is the Union Pacific which has \$1,438,799 of the total. Next largest is the Pacific Power & Light company with \$204,389. The telephone company has \$133,781 and smaller companies have the remainder.

Remainder consists of companies operating cars on the railroad, the Oregon Trunk that pays on 29 mile of tunnel, the Rufus water system and rural telephone lines that have not paid old taxes and thus become tax exempt.

The REA does not pay valorem taxes, being assessed at 3 percent of the receipts.

The Union Pacific main line is assessed by the state tax commission at \$43,344 per mile of which there are 14.29 in Sherman county. The branch line is assessed at \$10,080 per mile. Assessment of the Pacific Power & Light company is on the basis of \$630 per mile for transmission lines of which there are 115.26 miles and of \$504 per mile for distribution lines of which there are 135.2 miles.

Tax levied against the railroad company for this year will be \$39,059.68, against the light company is \$5,202.30 and against the telephone company is \$3,892.94. These utilities pay the larger part of such taxes in the county.

Total tax to be paid by property owners of the county is \$225,047.98, a much larger sum than has been levied against property in this county for years. This is made up of \$40,442.01 for the general fund, which is no large increase; \$31,564.50 for the road fund and \$40,442.01 for the special road fund, recently voted by the people. This special fund millage is 4-1, the same as the general fund, and the amount raised is in excess of the amount voted but is figured to the nearest tenth of a mill.

There is also a \$95,082.74 total of special school taxes and \$11,498.58 of non-high school district taxes and city taxes of \$6,018.14. Growth of school taxes has been more rapid than others. In addition to the \$95,082.74 and \$11,498.58 for schools raised by local taxes there is the school library tax of \$46.20 and the per capita school tax of \$10 per child which will be paid by the state. It amounts to \$4620. The basic school support fund, voted last November will raise another \$110,081.42 (from income tax) in this county. Of this amount \$42,676.20 will be returned.

Total cost of schools in Sherman county next year may be \$153,923.72 inasmuch as that much money will be available for schools here. That will be a cost of \$355.05 for each census pupil.

Cost to the taxpayers of the county will be some \$68,000 more than the \$153,923 because of the basic school law.

## Cities' Value Small Part of County Total

From the property valuation standpoint the towns of Sherman county are pretty small, compared to the remainder of the county. The entire county has a valuation of \$9,863,906 of which only 6.2 percent is within the three incorporated towns.

Wasco is valued at \$258,885, Moro at \$203,569 and Grass Valley at \$152,753 all of which totals \$615,207, probably the smallest percentage of urban valuation of any county in the state.

## TODD RED-X TREASURER

Bill E. Todd of Moro has been appointed temporary secretary of the Sherman County Chapter of the American Red Cross following the resignation of Charles Ruggles. Mrs Lester Wilson of Kent has been appointed Sherman Chapter Publicity chairman following the resignation of Mrs A. F. Balzer of Grass Valley. Both appointments were made by Mrs Frank von Borstel, chairman of Sherman Chapter.