

Sherman County Journal
Published Every Friday at
Moro, Oregon
Giles L. French Editor
Entered as second class matter at the
Postoffice at Moro, Oregon under Act of
Congress of March 3, 1919.
Member
OREGON NEWSPAPER
PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL EDITORIAL
ASSOCIATION
1947 Active Member
OFFICIAL COUNTY PAPER
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
ONE YEAR \$2.00
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1947
EDUCATION

This week we publish a long letter from the principal of the Moro school. It is being published because it offers some disagreement with expressed editorial opinion.

Whether it is wise to engage in arguments about the curricula while the argument about the location of a new plant is going on has apparently been considered by Mr. Young and answered in the affirmative. It is certainly of as much pertinence to talk about what is taught as about where it is taught.

There is really little disagreement in the letter. The editor said too little history was taught in schools. The letter confirms that statement. The teaching of history in the grades must be on the level of the information of the child and is necessarily of rudimentary nature.

That pupils are graduated from high school with one semester of U. S. history and one of civics is a serious mistake. That the only background for understanding of world events is one freshman "course" in world geography and one sophomore "course" in world history is certainly no credit to our school system.

American schools have presumably been teaching the virtues of democracy for over 160 years and democracy is more questioned now as a suitable governmental system than ever before. We think the schools cannot entirely escape blame for the growth of other "isms" than Americanism. Schools that graduate pupils with one semester of U. S. history are not teaching enough of that important subject and one "course" whether it is a year or a semester is too short a time to teach enough world history to give anyone a suitable understanding of world events.

Saying that there will always be wars is pessimistic. It might be better to qualify it by saying that there will always be wars until children all over the world are taught about children of other lands, about the history and conditions that make them as they are. If, for instance, the people of this nation had had a fuller understanding of the Japanese it might not have been necessary to use our ability at science to bomb them to their knees. If there was better understanding of the Russians it might not be necessary to go ahead making instruments of destruction.

Trading history courses—and allied courses—for teaching of the physical sciences has been an aid to bringing on the things we most fear.

NICE SPOT

Farmers who attend the wheat league meeting at Baker may learn something about their possible economic future that will be interesting, especially if it proves to be true.

When farmers seem to be holding their place as favorites of conditions better than most classes of producers. Wheat is being exported to Europe in great quantities, in fact, the government has lowered the supply for domestic consumption in order to ship overseas. That makes wheat a very nice price indeed. Other besides the farmer have reaped a part of the profit, but the farmer is doing well.

The complaints about the high cost of living are beginning to bear fruit and sales will not be made so easily before spring. This is based on appraisal of conditions made locally. Working people and white collar workers are not living so well these days; credit sales are more common. Where sales are larger it is because of higher prices and not more goods sold. It seems probable that the end of the big boom is in sight.

With sales of grain to Europe already arranged for at least another year the wheat farmer may escape the results of the drop in sales. Wheat prices may hold up after other things have dropped. The ideal of producing cheap and selling high might be possible.

Gains from that condition would be temporary because more farmers would turn to the easily produced wheat and eventually those in a strictly wheat district

would suffer. It is going to be much easier to suffer lower prices, however, with a padding of dollars gained from the present prices on the economic ribs. When prices were low before there were poor crops and no reserve.

Wheat farming right now has a better outlook than for several years for a way is open to ship the feared surplus away at a profit to the grower. That the American taxpayer pays the bill cuts a bit of the profit off, but not enough to matter much.

COUNTY MANAGER

The announcement that Bill Todd expects to resign as county assessor makes pertinent a discussion of the county manager plan for Sherman county. Mr. Todd is going to start farming, an occupation which he intended to pursue when opportunity offered. The salary of the assessor's office is not enough to interest him in the light of more profitable activity.

The question arises whether this county—and others similarly situated—can ever hope to obtain and retain the services of capable men for public office.

It is a fact that there is not enough work in any one of the county offices to merit the payment of a large salary for any one of them. Perhaps if the people were to vote for the county manager plan it would be possible to hire one man of acknowledged ability who could do some of the work and delegate the remainder to clerks and other assistants who could be obtained for moderate salaries.

It would be possible for the county to pay a good salary for a good manager who could supervise all county activities. He would need to have a knowledge of office procedure, have an eye for finance and some general good sense about the road work with some responsibility about law enforcement.

Such a move would probably result in better county government. Whether a county so conservative as Sherman would make the change until county affairs become more pressing could not be foretold. A hundred signatures would put it before the people, however.

Some so-called liberals are happy because the United Nations voted to partition Palestine. This is resulting in a fight between the Jews who are moving into the county and the Arabs who have lived there for centuries. Perhaps the only thing that will keep the killing below the number killed in India will be lack of lethal weapons. England and the United States deserve no credit for leaving scenes of conflict and letting peoples fight but their own troubles. They should keep out in the first place or stay until there is peace.

PLANNING

The very idea of planning has gotten a sort of bad name in some part for under the guise of planning the government perpetrated some very ill considered changes on the people. But planning is necessary if new ventures are to be made to succeed.

It is fairly easy to plan a course of action in public affairs. If one were a dictator, or if a committee was given authoritative power, there would be little trouble in getting great things done quickly. We do not, however, have that kind of a government.

Deciding what is the best thing to do is of little use unless a feasible plan for convincing the majority is also made. There is little governmental machinery for coercing the people; they must be convinced. We like it that way.

So many groups meet, discuss and solemnly resolve; then do it all over again the next year without having any appreciable effect on the condition they wish to change.

These thoughts have arisen in considering the meetings that are now being held for the wheat league and the county conference. The problems have usually been considered seriously and intelligently. For example, farmers have been asking for stricter weed control measures for years, but the result has been small because the plans for getting the credit sales are more common. Where sales are larger it is because of higher prices and not more goods sold. It seems probable that the end of the big boom is in sight.

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People's Column

To the Editor:

"I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." These are words credited to Voltaire, French poet and reformer, near the time of the American Revolution. They speak the intent of that part of Amendment I in the Bill of Rights which prohibits Congress enacting laws "abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press."

One of the most wholesome characteristics of a "free press" can be found daily in the editorial pages of papers like the Oregonian and Oregon Journal where readers may express their opinions. The People's Column of the Sherman County Journal performs the same function. Sometimes two articles or an article and an editorial expressing opposite views appear side by side or in succeeding issues. Good arguments and poor can be put to test, and misinformation or prejudice can be exposed.

A truly "free press" does not limit expression of opinions to those which coincide with the views of the editor or the vested interests which finance his paper either directly or indirectly. Wholesome debate on the pages of the press presents several viewpoints and sets of data which will more easily enable readers to make intelligent decisions for themselves. This is also true about verbal debates, whether they take place in the barber shop, on the street corner, in the local debate society, or in the local, state or national legislative sessions.

The editor of the Sherman County Journal accepts the above thoughts, at least in essence, or this article would not appear in his paper, since it expresses variance with some of his published statements. Such friendly arguments should develop into a wholesome exchange of ideas.

The editorial column, "These Things We Note," in the October 31 issue of the Sherman County Journal expressed the thought that "the basic things" regarding schools have not changed. This is followed by the statements, "There are some changes, though. Schools teach little history and not much civics or government anymore, that phase of education being taken over by what is called science courses."

This statement has aroused comment of many teachers of the county who feel that such a statement is misleading. History and civics still receive proper recognition in the school curriculum. The term, "social science" has largely supplanted the terms, "history," "civics," and "geography," for these are now properly taught as integrated subjects. History and geography supply us with facts, examples, reasonings, which can be used to solve our own civic, social, and economic problems of the present and future.

It is noted with commendation that the editor frequently cites historical examples in substantiating a conjecture on current problems. The Funk & Wagnall's Standard Universal Dictionary defines sociology (social science) as, "The science that treats of the origin and history of human society and social phenomenon, the progress of civilization, and the laws controlling human intercourse." As teachers we are primarily interested in aiding our students to make a better adjustment to the life which they will lead (understanding laws controlling human intercourse) rather than to use the "ram it in, cram it in, children's heads are hollow" philosophy spoken of in the Journal.

We would agree with the editor's statement in the September 12 issue in talking about school as "the second course in government" and about children learning "what they cannot do and what they can do as individuals,"—collectively and internationally. "Perhaps all of it depends on what they learn about getting along as individuals," mirrors the writer's attitude if the word "all" were changed to "much."

The course of Study for Elementary School of Oregon requires eighth grade students to spend about an hour a day in a social studies course which includes study of the democratic system, civics, Oregon History and Oregon Government. About the same amount of time is spent in the seventh grade on backgrounds for world history. Additional time is spent discussing current events, a large part of which concerns governmental activities. Trips have been taken to civic elections to see how the voting process works.

Fifth and sixth grades have a similar program. The fourth grade spends about one-half hour a day on geography and the third grade studies their own town, community, and Oregon History for about the same period of time

Throughout the entire elementary school program, many of the books used to instruct in reading deal with social problems.

High school courses required for graduation include one semester of U. S. History, one semester of U. S. Government (civics) and two semesters on social and economic problems. In the Moro High School freshmen have been required to take a course in world geography, and sophomores to take a course in world history. It is hoped that such emphasis placed upon subjects which teach students "how to get along" may aid promotion of national and international peace so that our children may not be called upon for sacrifices to the war god Mars, as we have been called upon to do. We may be pessimistic and say that there will always be wars. This is the ostrich method of solving problems. Most of us would rather be like the frog who fell into the cream jar and churned a life raft of butter through his efforts to save himself, while his buddy gave up and drowned. We teachers want to be able to say, "We have done our best to help students understand the world in which they live; so they can help to shape the future into desirable patterns."

Plowing, harrowing, weeding, and harvesting are basic operations for the wheat farmer. No Sherman County wheat farmer would go back to the horse-drawn machinery of the 1800's. All are interested in the latest models put out by International Harvester, John Deere, Massey-Harris, and the other implement manufacturers. All realize that following tested and approved methods recommended by experts of the U. S. and State Experiment Station will increase their grain yields.

"Readin', Ritin' and Rithmetic" are still basic operations in school programs. Mastery of these skills allow a person to receive, give, and quantitatively express ideas which will result in improving his chances to "get along in the world." Modern schools and instruction, just as modern farms and farming, require sufficient well-arranged space, adequate modern equipment, and enough trained personnel to insure successful activity. One purpose of the local observance of American Education Week in the Moro community was to show school patrons our small and poorly located rooms where in some classes and study halls, as many as six students are forced to study at tables built for four; where classes must be held in competition with noisy physical education classes in the adjoining room; and where lack of recreational areas leads to friction and hard feelings. Under such conditions, students and teachers invariably "get in each other's hair," undoing most of the efforts made to teach them "how to get along with others."

Given serviceable equipment, we teachers can help the home and church prepare the seed bed in the minds of our students; make fertile fields in which the facts and thoughts learned from books, magazines, and experience can germinate. We can help cultivate and nurture their tender growth through early stages in development, so that by the time of maturity they can stand upright, fully-blossomed, strong enough to withstand all but the most severe buffetings of mother nature and fate. Then we shall be able to reap the golden harvest, the three "P's" (peace, plenty, and prosperity).

Keneth G. Young, Sup't. Moro Public Schools

T. Lester Johnson
LAWYER
WASCO MORO

Bethlehem Chapter No. 78. O.E.S.
Meets every second and fourth Thursday in each month; visiting members invited. Moro, Oregon.
Genevieve Powell, W. M. Edna Melzer, Secretary

Eureka Lodge No. 121 A.F. & A.M.
Meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings each month. Visiting members cordially invited to meet with us. E. E. Barzee, W. M. H. B. Pinkerton, Secretary

Lupine Rebekah Lodge No. 116
Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Visiting members welcome. Irma Johnson N. G. Clara Houston, Sec.

Moro Lodge No. 113 I.O.O.F.
Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in I.O.O.F. hall. Transient and visiting brothers are cordially invited to meet with us.
John Lawrence, N. G. A. R. Kessinger, Secretary

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF SHERMAN GUY C. ANDREWS, Administrator of the Estate of Antoine B. Sandvig, Deceased.

Plaintiff
VS.
OLIVA CARR, MONRAD WIGEN, OLGA OGILVIE, ELMER WIGEN, HUSCROFT, IRENE OLGA MITCHELL, EINER ANDESTADT, ARNE ANDESTADT, ROY ANDESTADT, MRS ROSTEN, VICTOR SANDVIG, Now known as VICTOR SANDWICK, VALBORG SANDVIG LARSEN, HJORDIS SYLVIA HONVE, OLAF KJELL GIOVANNI, JENNY SANDVIG, AMBROSIA SANDVIG ENGELBERG, BORGHILD VICTORIA SANDVIG BOE, EDVIN SANDVIG, and all persons unnamed or unknown having or claiming any interest in said Estate as heirs or distributees. Defendants

CITATION

TO: Olvia Carr, Monrad Wiggen, Olga Ogilvie, Elmer Wiggen Huscroft, Irene Olga Mitchell, Einer Andestadt, Arne Andestadt, Roy Andestadt, Mrs Rosten, Victor Sandvig, now known as Victor Sandwick, Valborg Sandvig Larsen, Hjords Sylvia Honve, Olaf Kjell Giovanni, Jenny Sandvig Tyssebro, Olaf Sandvig, Ambrosia Sandvig Engelberg, Borghild Victoria Sandvig Boe, Edwin Sandvig, and all persons unnamed or unknown having or claiming any interest in said Estate as heirs or distributees, and all persons named or unnamed having or claiming any interest in the Estate of said decedent: GREETINGS:

IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON: You are hereby required to appear in the County Court for Sherman County, Oregon, U.S.A., in the Court House at Moro, Sherman County, Oregon, U.S.A., on or before the 5th day of April, 1948, at 10:00 o'clock A. M. of said day to appear and show cause, if any there be, why the facts should not be found and the rights of heirship and distribution in the matter of the Estate of Antoine B. Sandvig, Deceased, should not be decreed, as set forth and prayed for in the petition of the plaintiff on file herein. You are further required to appear before the Court at the time and place named and file answers setting up your respective claims of heirship, ownership or interest in said Estate.

WITNESS the Honorable J. M. Wilson, Judge of the County Court of the State of Oregon for Sherman County, together with the seal of said Court affixed this 22nd day of November, 1947. The date of the first publication of this citation is December 5th, 1947.

ROSS ORNDUFF
County Clerk and Clerk of the County Court of Sherman County, Oregon.
(SEAL OF THE COUNTY COURT)

In Other Days

From the Observer, Dec. 4, 1908
Julius J. Martin of Idaho— is here on a visit. He was the pioneer stage driver to cross Sherman county from the Columbia river south. The station in Moro was about where the home of Col. Carl Peetz now is. (Gillmor)

The team of horses stolen from Louie Pape on the 14th was recovered at Goldendale where they had been sold for \$150. Sheriff Freeman brought the horses home this week.
Born To Mr and Mrs W. E. Newton, a son.

From the G. V. J. Dec 6, 1918
At Moro Wednesday representatives from all parts of the county discussed a proposal to put a monument for Sherman county boys in the World War, to be erected on the Columbia river. H. Ziegler has bought the C. E. Davis barn and lot. Mr. Davis is moving to Portland to be near his children.

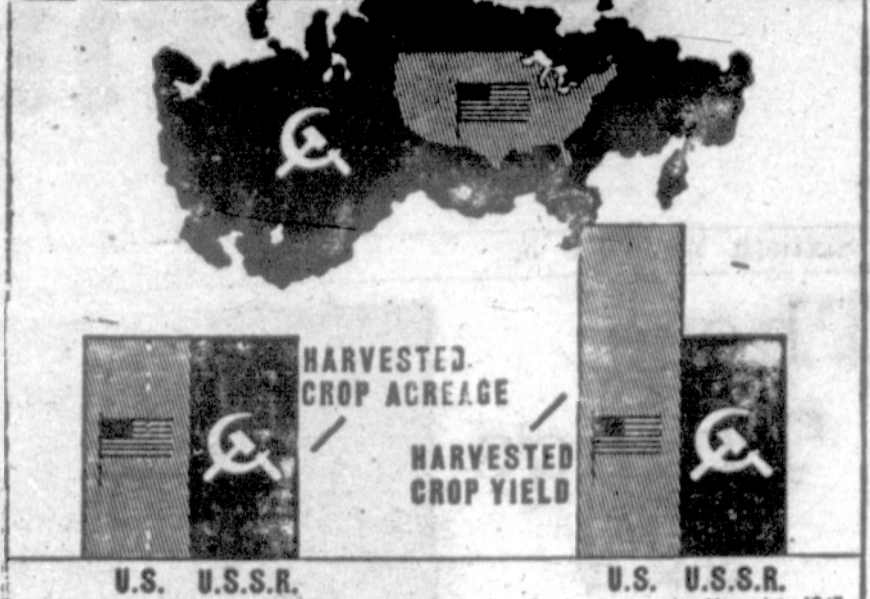
The new residence of Mr and Mrs Clyde Smith is about ready for occupancy.
J. K. Irby has received a new five gallon gas pump and 1000 storage tank.

From the Observer, Dec. 7, 1928
A marriage license was issued Tuesday to Wayland C. Weld of Wasco and Miss Laura Newcomb of Grass Valley.

A number of tractor owners left to attend a tractor school at Walla Walla. Going were E. R. Barzee, Clarence Sparling, Henry Barnum, Chester Searcy, O. G. Sayrs, G. P. Moore, O. L. Belshie, Jim Kenny.

A runaway horse slipped and fell on the Sherman highway Sunday injuring Misses Cecil and Grace Cothran. They had been riding the horse in the lot near their home west of DeMoss school before going on to the road.

A Comparison of U.S. and Russian Farm Efficiency



Based on prewar statistics (1929). Source: H. DeGraff in Steelways Magazine November, 1947

The American mastery of modern farming techniques gives us a big edge in strength over any potential aggressor, according to Dr. Herrell DeGraff, outstanding Cornell University agricultural economist.

This is because farm productivity is an accurate measure of a country's industrial strength as well as the health of its population, he said. Writing in Steelways Magazine, Dr. DeGraff said, "Russia, for instance, has yet to win the war of steel plows and the efficiency which they symbolize."

Comparing the agricultural systems of the two countries, he said, "America's basic advantage makes Russia look like a 14-year-old boy pitted against a brawny blacksmith in a weight lifting contest."

"We have to go back to shortly before the Civil War," he added, "to find when the American farmer's productivity was as low as the Russians' in 1928. American agriculture in pre-war years turned out six times as much as each worker on the land in Russia."

The use of prewar figures was necessary, Dr. DeGraff explained, for the reason that the Soviets do not give out statistics now. He also said that "even if we had the information, it would hardly be satisfactory to draw a comparison since Russia's agricultural production was far more disrupted by the war than ours was."

Although Russia is the largest nation in the world, containing one-sixth of the world's land area, and with a population one-third greater than that of the United States, agriculturally speaking, Dr. DeGraff pointed out, this nation's output of farm produce in the years for which we have a comparison exceeded Russia's by 50 per cent. Both countries had approximately the same harvested crop acreage, prewar.

"Except in a few operations, Russia's claim to have the most mechanized agriculture in the world is a gross exaggeration," Dr. DeGraff stated. "The bulk of Russian farm work is done by hand while the American farmer, using machines

made mostly of steel, supplied by an aggressive American industry, never ceased to expand the effectiveness of his work."

Dr. DeGraff quoted figures to show that the Russian farmer worked 63 hours before the war to grow one acre of corn, while in this country American farmers worked only 16 hours and obtained double the yield.

Russians, according to the article, required 330 hours to raise and harvest an acre of cotton. American producers do the same in 91 hours. While the farmer in this country labored 9 hours to raise and harvest an acre of wheat, the Russian farmer took 47 hours and even then got less wheat. Sugar beets, potatoes, milk and poultry production all followed the same pattern.

"The great vitality and productivity of American agriculture has been the basis of the rising strength of the nation and the rising standard of living," Dr. DeGraff said. "We now use only one-sixth of the nation's productive effort to provide for this country and still ship 10 per cent of our farm produce overseas."

Production levels in the United States are ever-increasing, Dr. DeGraff explained, "because individuals have had freedom to work and enjoy the fruits of labor. Under that system we have built an economic system that has stimulated production, individually and in the mass."

"The steel industry and other allied industries, making possible such machines of increasing efficiency, constantly reduce still farther the manpower needed to produce food and thus release more men to devise and produce more ways to build higher the level of our civilization."

"Whatever else may be behind the Iron Curtain, we know it hides great weaknesses. Our strength is in plain sight. The steel coming from the mills, the machines from our factories and the production from our farms make it possible to get from each according to his ability in increasing measure the stuff of life."

CONSOLIDATION ELECTION

School boards of Wasco and Klondike will meet December 8 to arrange for posting a consolidation election notice. The election will be held December 22 and is for the purpose of consolidating the two districts. When and if done all districts sending pupils to Wasco will be united.

MISENERS LEAVING

Fred Misener moved his household goods to Fossil the first of the week and will live there. Mrs. Rawleigh Misener moved into the hotel apartment vacated by the Fred Miseners and will remain here to be near her daughter, Mrs. Wm. Gildner, who is in a hospital in The Dalles.

CHURCHES

- MORO COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sunday School 10 a. m.
Wasco Methodist Church
10:00 a. m. Church School
11 a. m. Worship Service
Youth Sunday.
KENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Sunday School 10 a. m.
Morning Worship 11 a. m.
Rev. Earl Hastings, pastor
Wasco Church of Christ
Church school 10:00 a. m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a. m.
F. Claude Stephens, minister.
Grass Valley Baptist Church
Sunday school 10 a. m., morning worship 11 a. m.
Howard Schilling, pastor

Stop Look Listen
There is nothing finer than
STROMBERG-CARLSON FM
For a 12 minute demonstration see
John DeMoss
SHOW ROOM DIMOS SPRINGS