Oregon Historical Society
235 S. W. MARKET

Sherman County Journal

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These Things We Note

by Giles L. French

There is a campaign on, here and elsewhere, to send clothing and blankets to the Navajo Indians in New Mexico. Imagine that! White men have been buying Navajo blankets since the Indians quit killing white settlers. Now we give 'em back. We've seen everything.

After a meeting we were asked, "Did you get all the problems solved?"

And we thought how impossible, how sad it would be to get all the problems solved about anything. It would be the end of progress, and of meetings with friends and neighbors, and of planning, and of arguments.

No. As much trouble and time as it takes to "solve" problems, we hope it is never done. People get all upset about them and (either actually or in imagination) but if there is enough talk and discussion that the will of the majority prevails it is O. K. The world has found no better method of settling problems than that the settlement suits the greatest number. But, OH! the talking it takes.

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Bill Hayward used to say that if any healthy boy came out regularly for some track or field event he would guarantee him a letter before he finished the university. A lot of boys were in competition for the school who had very ordinary ability because of the good training they received.

And that's worth remembering for there are always a very few who are especially gifted at anything, but perseverance and hard work are within the reach of all.

Now Bill Hayward, wrinkled as a pair of track pants, aged 79, has quietly gone to sleep for good. May there be others to teach the youth in track and other activities that success can be attained by steady plugging. You didn't have to be a genius to run for Bill Hayward, but you had to be there every day, trying. You don't have to be a genius to achieve what you want in this world, either, but you need to be in there pitching every day.

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The supreme court has just handed down an opinion that is a little surprising in these times. In an opinion by Winslow it refused to give a divorce to a couple both of whom, the testimony showed, had been to blame for their troubles.

The decision mentioned that divorce was properly given to the injured party. The injured party must come into court with clean hands, and not be a contributor to the family dissension. The court said: "Here we are again met with the argument that you can deny a divorce to these parties, but you can't make them love one another or re-establish this broken home. Regardless of all that may be said in these fields, one thing is certain: That if a divorce is denied these parties and they refuse to settle their differnces and effect a reconciliation, or put in order the pieces of this broken home, or straighten out their tangled skein of living, at least they cannot, go out and start another home, to crumble and fall when the storm strikes. That by itself may be a saving to society."

A few more decisions like that one might serve to curb much of our tendency toward martial infidelity, and general slackness of morals. People have about the kind of morals they want and if they condone those who fail to adhere to a responsible code they aid in the break-up of decent morals.

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Sherman county may have a white Christmas, but if so, the snow is going to be comparatively fresh. Before the holiday, however, is another date of importance: Next Sunday is the shortest day. After that we can be reaching out toward spring and lengthening days will give daily assurance of growing weather, summer warmth and more pleasant living.

THE LONG ROAD BACK . . . Admiration and encouragement help Robert Lane, 9, of Somerville, Mass., take his first steps toward learning to walk again in the infantile paralysis center at the children's hospital in Boston, the nation's only general hospital for children. With the youngster at the polio center pool is Cornelia Otis Skinner, actress and national chairman of the women's division of the 1948 March of Dimes.

County Court Business

CONDENSED REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF DECEMBER TERM OF COUNTY COURT

Claims against County General and General Road Funds allowed as presented.

Report of County Treasurer showing fund balances as of November 30, presented, approved and filed.

Sheriff's report pertaining to taxes collected for first quarter of current year presented, accepted and filed.

Petition of Webfoot Farmers Telephone Line Corporation asking for designation of location of Pole line along certain County Roads, received, approved and Order issued designating location.

Bid of Howard J. Pratt accepted for purchase of tax foreclosed property in Wasco.

Deed issued by Court conveying tax foreclosed property in Wasco to Elmer L. Hill et ux.

Petition of Kenneth Sather et al allowed as presented to Court for closure of a portion of road designated as No. 126.

Application of Leonard Foltz for renewal of Beer License for 1948 acted upon favorably.

Application of Charles R. Logan for appointment as County Auditor for 1948 held in suspense..

Order made and entered appointing Dr. L. L. Taylor as County Veterinarian.

Applications for minor road improvements received and requests granted.

Request of Floyd D. Flatt granted for permission to construct one-half mile of telephone line along Base Line Road.

Arrangement made with Fred Dormaier and Alfred Merritt for minor grading work to be done on Webfoot-McDonald Ferry Road.

Directed that County Treasurer issue Treasurer's checks in payment for 24,800 cubic yards crushed rock.

No further matters being at issue court adjourned.

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST SHERMAN COUNTY, OREGON, GENERAL AND ROAD FUNDS FOR NOVEMBER 1947 AND APPROVED DECEMBER 3, 1947 TERM OF THE COUNTY COURT.

General Fund:

R. O. Scott, stamps Justice of Peace, $5.00; C. Mersinger, Janitor's salary, $99.97; James W. Jones, expense of Government Trapper, 50.00; R. O. Scott, Justice of Peace, salary, 4 months, $303.96; Vernon I. Miller, county commissioner, $18.00; Joe Peters, County Commissioner, $22.80; First National Bank, with-holding tax, $124.60; Public Employees Retirement, retirment fund, $157.95; National Hospital Association, dues, $9.00; T. Lester Johnson, District Attorney's expenses, $42.50; State Industrial Accident Commission, peace officer's protection, $4.73; Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co., telephones all offices, $38.50; Department of Agriculture, sealer, weights & measures, $2.56; Geo. H. Wilcox, premium on Coroner's bond—E. M. Alley, $5.00; Craig Office Supply, Assessor's office expense, $1.10; The J. K. Gill Co. Clerk's office expense, $36.24; Burroughs Adding Machine Co., Sheriff's office, expense $34.26, Assessor's office expense, $27.48, $61.74; West Coast Printing & Binding Co., Justice of Peace expense, $12.25, Clerk's office expense, $68.70, $80.95; Sherman County Journal, County Printing, $22.80; Naomi Van Gilder, Co. Treas., General Assistance, $247.50; Old Age Assistance, $405.00, Aid to Dependen Children, $51.75, $704.25; J. C. Freeman P. M., stamps Clerk's office, $10.00; Bill E. Todd, expenses to Assessor's meeting, $10.00; Charles R. Logan, audit of Co. Books, $172.00; Norman E. Fields, expense to Sheriff's convention, $40.00; W. T. Balsiger Insurance Agency, insurance courthouse, furniture and fixtures, $209.88; Wily W. Knighten, stamps Sup't $12.00; Katie Geiser, Sup't office help less tax, $89.45; City of Moro, water courthouse, $1.90; Ross Orndiff, expense to Clerk's convention, $40.00; J. M. Wilson, County Judge's expense, $125.00; Giles L. French, Service Organizations, $500.00; The Frank Shepard Co., subscription to Shepard's citations, $12.00.

ROAD FUND

ROAD EMPLOYEES PAY ROLL: Scott Reed, $102.40; J. W Coons, $132.70; C. S. Rice, $152.35; C. Bargenholt, $195.14; E. McPherson, $214.94; Frank Bazzel $168.71; C. Medlock, $227.70; R. Medlock, $206.90; Paul Cyphers, $217.80; J. T. Brown, 95.00; C. Medlock, $45.10.

ACCOUNT— Public Employes Retirement, retirement fund, $132.24; First National Bank, withholding tax, $157.90; State Industrial Accident Commission, miscellaneous, $45.96; Clyde Equipment Co., repairs, $28.43; Howard Cooper Corp., repairs, $18.85; Columbia Motor Service Co., repairs, $67.90; Service Garage, repairs, $1.40; The Dalles Iron Works, repairs, $2.50; J. K. McKean Co., repairs, $26.57; O'Meara Supply & Imp. Co., $174.58; Misener Bros. & Gildner, general supplies, $9.13, Tires & Tubes, $1.00, $10.13; Moro Lumber & Fuel Co., general suplies, $8.48; Earl Olds Hardware, general supplies, $7.75; Firestone Stores, general supplies, $9.34, R. H. McKean & Son, tires & tubes, $237.74, general supplies, $59.60, $297.34; Armco Drainage & Metal Products Co., bridge account, $67.91; Beall Pipe & Tank Corp., bridge account, $635.47; Flatt's Truck Service, miscellaneous, $66.73; City of Moro, miscellaneous, $1.75; Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co., miscellaneous, $11.15; Fred Dormaier, Road improvement, $120.00; Union Oil Co., Gas & Oil, $178.87; Shell Oil Co., gas & oil, $100.83; Sherman Motor & Equipment Co., repairs, $34.65; Mid-Columbia Supply & Equipment Co., general supplies, $40.20; Wasco County Grain Growers general supplies, $20.51.

ATTEND FUNERAL

Mr and Mrs Tommy Jones, accompaned by their son, Bud, of La Grande drove to Grants Pass Saturday to attend the funeral of T-5 Maicolm B. Davis, a nephew of Mr. Jones, who was killed in Germany and was one of those boys being returned to the states for final burial. The Jones returned Tuesday.

Next week, as the normal publication day would be Christmas, we will publish Wednesday, December 24. Season's greetings will be appropriate for that issue. Will correspondents and others with news please oblige?

Seal Sale Still Has $400 To Go To Reach Quota

Sale of Christmas seals is lagging in Sherman county compared to the record the county has made in previous years. Of the $1000 goal only $619 has so far been sent in in payment for the Christmas seals without which no package is complete at this time of year.

Receipts are $42.50 from Kent, $171.50 from Grass Valley, $191.00 from Moro; $134.00 from Wasco and $80.00 from Rufus. Of the amounts raised 75 percent remains in the county and is used for the benefit ot local citizens Funds from the sale of seals tested 400 persons with X-rays here this fall, pays for the work of Dr. Stone of White Salmon, pediatritian and for the health nurse.

New and official name of the organization is the Sherman County Tuberculosis and Health association, which annually sponsors the work of selling the seals and thus raising money for this health work.

Wasco Auxiliary Sponsors Volleyball

The American Legion Auxiliary held its December meeting at the home of Mrs O. W. Barnett with Mrs T. Jacobson joint hostess, Friday afternoon. The President Mrs Dan McDermid presided. Twelve members, seven new members and two visitors responded to roll call.

It was decided to sponsor the girls' volley ball team.

The secretary was instructed to purchase a Christmas card with our unit name and number on it and two 25 cent saving stamps to be mailed to the State President, Mrs Coyner.

The January 9th meeting will be at the country home of Mrs Kenneth Blau.

Dainty refreshments were served at the conclusion of the meeting.

Grade School Gives Tumbling Exhibition

The Moro grade school tumbling team made its initial appearance between the halves of games. Applause from a capacity crowd indicated that the performance was well received. Children from the first four grades filled in time during halves o fthe high school game. Some uniformity in dress has been accomplished by using orange and black clothes with cattle brands being used for identification. It is hoped that good uniforms can be purchased at a later datel It is planned that tumbling will be a regular feature at home games.

UrgesSealSupport

Douglas Fairbanks, popular movie star, urges nation-wide support of the 1947 Christmas Seal Sale which will be conducted Nov. 24 to Dec. 25. Fairbanks stars in the Christmas Seal trailer which will be shown in motion picture theatres throughout the country during the campaign. Funds raised from the sale of Christmas Seals will be used to support the tuberculosis control work of the 3,000 associations affiliated with the National Tuberculosis Association.

Farm Equipment Changing As New Methods Tried

Farm equipment is changing under the pressure of new farmers and new farming methods. This much was in evidence at the meeting Tuesday of the Land Use committee of the county planning conference at the court house with Vernon Miller as chairman.

The disc plow, once heralded as the lifesaver of the country, then discarded in disgrace and again revived in the form of larger discs and wider sections is now in more favor than before and some young farmers use them exclusively.

The duck foot cultivator is used in preference to the standard rod weeder where trashy fallow is full of straw. But farmers who are on the better land, where stubble is high and the land heavy still stick to the moldboard plow and older weeding equipment. There is no theory about it all. The men on the land have tried the tools and know what will work and what won't.

As for drills, whereas the county used to put the seed in the soil with a hoe drill, now a good half dozen kinds are used all with their own adherents, and the hoe drill in its original form is in the fence corner. Yet, if each alternate hoe is removed and full stagger is used they can do a job of drilling in trashy fallow. Single disc, double disc, deep furrow, ten inch width, Dempster all do the seeding with results varying, as always, with the season, the summerfallow and the care used.

Use of equipment is one of the major subjects to be covered in the committee report to the main conference to be held here in January.

The transportation section objected to the imposition of higher freight rates by the percentage method which penalizes the west, it was said, by limiting the the eastern market for soft white wheat. The county road program was praised as giving everyone a graveled road to town and there are rumors of a request for an oiling program when the rocking is ended.

Grass on tillable land was not so profitable as wheat at one dollar per bushel, but was useful for soil conservation purposes said Norris Gilkison who reported for forage crops. Some range seeding may be tried for grasses said some stockmen.

Bill Todd, for the taxation part of the report, thought that some more interest in taxation would be valuable and a means of appraisal of property for tax purposes would be helpful. The Gilliam county plan was mentioned. It employs a committee from each section of the county to aid in appraisal work. General discussion of state and local taxes followed in which it was shown that federal taxes are much higher than state and local and that property pays slightly less than a third of taxes in Oregon.

The chairman explained the soil conservation law and the restrictions placed in it for the benefit of property owners. Although it may be found useful in Sherman county in the future, no effort was made to have it adopted at this time.

SHANIKO

By Mrs Maude Garrett

Rev. E. E. Taylor of The Dalles stopped at Shaniko to visit the Rees home while on his way to Antelope to conduct funeral services for Jamie Keaton, who was buried there Friday. A large number from Shaniko attended the funeral.

Mrs Glade Carrigan and her daughter, Pat, were business visitors in The Dalles Friday.

Mrs G. B. Harris and Mrs W. D. Hanks drove to Madras Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs James Phifer and daughters spent Sunday visiting friends at Grass Valley and Kent.

Mrs Leslie Streit and sons, Loren and LeRoy, of Antelope were visitors at the Garrett home Monday.

There will be church in Kent again the 21st.

Lloyd Hermagin of Burbank, California, and his sister, Mrs G. A. Ekstrom of Portland, were here last week on business. Lloyd says there's lots going on around Los Angeles and lots of people to do it but he looks like h

Christmas Ship May Carry Sherman County Wheat

The plea for a donation from Sherman county for the Christmas ship that is to leave Portland about the first of the year for Europe has been made to many persons in the county, particularly officials of organizations Wheat in carload lots is the only food on the list that is considered practical for this county to give, although canned goods, flour, cereals and canned milk are permissable.

A proposal is being made to directors of the three grain growers units of the county that a donation of one carload of wheat be made and the expense prorated to the producers thereof in proportion to the amount of wheat grown this year. If this is found agreeable about 1500 bushels of grain may be set aside and shipped for this purpose. A. A. Dunlap, W. T. Balsiger and George W. Harris will see their respective directors to find out their feelings in the matter.

Cassie Heath Barker Buried In The Dalles

Funeral services for Mrs Roy Barker were held in The Dalles Wednesday afternoon. Death came suddenly last Friday evening in Pasadena, California while she was visiting her son, Millard Heath. Mrs Barker was a daughter of J. F. Bailey, an early day minister and the wife of the late Lester Heath, who is buried in The Dalles. She married Mr. Barker about five years ago. Surviving are two daughters and a son, a brother, Mark of Prineville and three sisters.

Grangers Confer; Hear State Master

The Grange school and conference for Sherman county was held at Rufus, December 11. State officers were Morton Tompkins, master; Bertha J. Beck, secretary; Agnes Flint, home economics chairman; Garnet Ruckman, lecturer; Hilda Reiher, juvenile superintendent; Edith Bohnert, youth chairman; William Howes, state district deputy; Clarence Carter, Union county deputy; Louis Sather, Sherman county deputy.

The afternoon was taken up with round table discussion by each department head, an agriculture conference and a panel discussion led by state officers.

There were fifty present for the supper held at six o'clock. The tables were decorated in the Christmas motif with colored candles and fall flowers. On the table committee were Mrs Harland McDonald, Mrs Grace Medles, and E. C. Eaton. Those on the kitchen committee were Mrs Charles Wilson, Mrs Richie Dingle and Mrs Curt Tom.

There were 33 present for the evening program which began with singing and recreation in charge of the state lecturer. Then the setting up of the hall with the work viewed by the county deputy. Demonstration of opening grange by Rufus team with floor demonstrations by district deputy.

On the lecturer's program under the direction of Garnet Ruckman, state grange lecturer, it began with "Smile, Smile, Smile" and "Silent Night" sung by all. Talk by State Master Morton Tompkins on "Electrical Power, Food Shortage and Agriculture." Quiz program and games by Garnet Ruckman. Questions by group and answeres by District Deputy William Howes. From here the state officers went to Wasco county.

GRANGE INSTALLS

Mr Howes, district deputy of the Oregon State Grange was here Sunday for the purpose of installing officers at a joint installation for Pomona Grange, the subordinate granges of Kent, Rufus, Harlandview and the Harlandview Juvenile Grange.

Masters installed were Louis Sather, Pomona Grange, Durward Holyer, Kent Grange, George Fox, Rufus Grange, Bob Belshe, Harlandview Grange and Bob Martin, Harlandview Juvenile Grange.

School Committe Changes Direction At Second Session

The second meeting of the school committee did none of the things for which is was called although excitement was made by the doing of other things not on the agenda.

The committee was to hear a report from the school location committee on what it considered the most feasible spot to place the new high school building that was agreed upon at the November meeting. And also the committee on publicity was to report on what its members had learned from other counties using the county unit plan. Neither report was made.

Members from down Rufus way had done better planning. George Fox, rural school board member, introduced F. R. Jackson of Hood River who came primed with dissatisfaction with the county unit plan there saying that the costs were much higher than in 1932 when the plan was adopted and schools no better. From then on the chairman, Kenneth Fridley, was never at a loss for some one to recognize.

Mrs Millard Eakin said children were more important than any of our other products and wanted a better chance for them. Mrs George Fox said that the fewer pupils in a school the better chance they had. Ross Guilford said Rufus had a fine school and opposed the county unit. Charley Wilson wanted to know why only five Oregon counties had adopted the unit plan.

Un-Democratic Charge

The Rufus delegation held the county unit law to be undemocratic in that the directors are elected from zones by the people at large and Irving Hart replied that the directors were elected by the people which was most democratic. To the charge that elementary schools might be consolidated Mrs Theodore von Borstel said that no board of directors would dare go against the expressed will of the majority to that extent.

George Fox then moved that the group recommend to the conference that a vote on a union high school be taken at the annual school meeting. Leonard Fields doubted if the proposal would carry at Rufus. The chairman said that there was danger that county high schools would lose their standardization unless consolidated and that this would take away about 25 percent of the income from the schools under the basic school law.

The vote on the motion was: Yes 12 No 14.

But Rufus was not done. A move to have the committee obtain petition and ask for a vote on formation of a union high school was passed with little or no opposition and the meeting adjourned still unacquainted with all the possibilities of the proposal agreed upon.

School Program International In Flavor

The annual Christmas program of the Moro Public Schools was held in the school gymnasium Wednesday evening, December 17. The theme of the program was "Christmas in Song and Story" which depicted the evolution of our Christmas customs, beginning with the nativity scenes and continuing on through the Roman, Russian, French, Welsh, Dutch, English, and American contributions to the modern community Christmas tree. The story was furnished by a reader, Joe Harvey, and a narrator, Virginia Smith, and by carols of grade and high school choral and instrumental groups, which were interpreted on stage through pantomines by groups of grade school youngsters in appropriate costumes. The English and American scenes were depicted by means of skits by the 7th and 8th grades. Two special numbers were presented, one a Holly Dance by the 3rd and 4th grades, the other a Wooden Soldier Drill by the 1st and 2nd grades. The 5th and 6th grade children, in addition to singing in the choruses and taking part in the pantomines, took charge of the stage decorations. The climax of the evening was reached when Santa Claus appeared with treats for all the children present.