

Historical Society
W. MARKET

Sherman County Journal

Sixtieth Year No. 14

Moro, Oregon, Friday, February 6, 1948

Official County Paper

These Things We Note

by Giles L. French

The Oregonian discourses editorially this week on the groundhog and his wonderful, if undeserved, reputation as a weather prophet. We must eventually rely on the woodchuck, says the editor and then quotes Wordsworth: "Great God! I'd rather be a Pagan suckled in a creed outworn. So might I, standing on this pleasant lea, have glimpses that would make me less forlorn; which was not quite enough to clarify the thought without at least another line or two: "Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea. Or hear old Triton blow his wreathed horn."

So, says the Oregonian's writer, with Wordsworth our religion and our science takes from us our one time reliance on nature. No modern man could see Proteus rising from the sea or Triton blowing a horn or even the foam off his fingers, because he doesn't believe in their existence.

Perhaps life was more entertaining at that when the world was less prosaic and factual and inhabited with more beings. Some of them must have been rare sights indeed.

And speaking of the groundhog, he must have been a sleepy marmot indeed not to have seen his shadow Monday when the sun shone brightly all day, so brightly that some of the newly fallen snow was melted.

New we're in for it, says the groundhog, and it will be six weeks before spring. But if the next six weeks are no more uncomfortable than the past such period it won't be hard to take.

Grass Valley is described by Lewis MacArthur by saying "Pioneer settlers, without ever changing countenance, tell new comers that in early days the rye-grass was so tall in this part of Oregon that it was well over a man's head. They even state that this was so when the man was on horse back."

The above seems to be a long story to Mr. MacArthur, who has searched for years to find the origin of Oregon geographical names. Certainly there are many who will attest that the rye-grass in the flat at Grass Valley was higher than a man's head. Not only that, it was a veritable forest of huge grass, tall and abundant and must have been very pretty before man came to destroy it. As for the grass hiding a horseman, one must remember that horses were smaller in those days.

Edgar Lee Masters has the Vill age Athelst say: "Ye young debaters over the doctrine Of the soul's immortality, I who lie here was the village atheist. Talkative, contentious, versed in the arguments of the infidels. But through a long sickness I coughing myself to death I read the Ipanishads and the poetry of Jesus, and when they lighted a torch of hope and intuition. And desire which the Shadow. Leading me swiftly through the caverns of darkness I could not extinguish. Listen to me, ye who live in the senses. And think through the senses only. Immortality is not a gift. Immortality is an achievement. And only those who strive mightily Shall possess it."

This is the time of year and the kind of weather to sing the praises of the old coal stove. Owners of the more ornate, even-er heating oil gadgets often come into this office and speak fine sentiments about the heat the old stove sends out so generously. It sometimes makes smoke rise from the seat of their pants for its nothing to snuggle up to. Every summer and every warm period there is discussion of throwing it out in the junk yard and replacing it with a fancier heating plant. But when the wind is cold the old thing redeems itself and when it gets around zero we wouldn't part with it under any consideration.

And besides a few coal ashes do wonders at getting cars started in this slick snowy weather.

Kent Girl Showered With Gifts On Marriage Eve

By Mrs Lester Wilson

Miss Mary Louise von Borstel was honored with a bridal shower, the last Wednesday by the American Legion auxiliary at the Kent Legion hall. Blue and white crepe streamers formed a background for the gift table which was covered with a lovely lace trimmed rice linen cloth. A game which called for the longest list of words rhyming with the word, bride was won by Mrs Gene Reynolds. Following the opening of the many beautiful gifts, refreshments of cake, jello and coffee were served.

Mr and Mrs Allen Bekkedahl were Sunday guests at the birthday dinner given by Mrs John Decker in honor of Mr. Decker.

Mr and Mrs Bob Helyer were overnight guests at the home of Mr and Mrs W. C. Helyer in The Dalles last Monday.

The Rev. and Mrs Earl Hastings' father and mother, Mr and Mrs George Hastings of The Dalles.

Dale Taylor of The Dalles spent the weekend as the guest of Edith Justesen.

The Misses Darlene McAllister and Cecilia Belloni and Edith Justesen were dinner guests Friday evening of David Moore at the home of his parents, Mr and Mrs Collis Moore of Moro.

The Kent IOOF lodge and the Wheatland Rebekah lodge are presenting a joint carnival, bazaar, food sale and supper to be held at Kent Legion hall Feb. 28.

Mrs Frank von Borstel, chairman of Sherman chapter Red Cross attended the meeting in Moro Monday evening.

Mr and Mrs Theo von Borstel motored to Portland Thursday and returned home Sunday.

Mr and Mrs Jesse Helyer, Bill Jefferies and Lester Wilson motored to The Dalles last Wednesday evening. The men attended the regular session of Columbia IOOF lodge.

Judge and Mrs J. M. Wilson and Mrs Nina Swanson were Sunday evening guests at the home of Mr and Mrs Carl Schade-ewitz.

Mrs J. M. Wilson left Monday to be with her mother, Mrs Betty Kelly who is seriously ill.

Mrs Nina Swanson arrived Thursday for a visit at the home of her niece, Mrs George Wilson.

The upper grades of the Kent grade school will celebrate Valentine's day and Lincoln's birthday jointly with a party held at the school on February 3.

Mr and Mrs Harley McKay and Mary Ann motored to Bell-ingham Friday to be with Mrs McKay's parents, Mr and Mrs Bucholtz who were seriously injured in an automobile wreck.

Rufus defeated Kent in Kent Friday with a score of 25 to 10. High point men for the evening were Roger Miller and Jack Stewart of Rufus tied with eight point each, and Leroy Martin with four points for Kent.

Kent grade school will play Rufus at Rufus Friday at eight o'clock Friday evening.

Club Members Hear Discussions Of Schools, Weeds

Sherman countians over 30 in number heard local citizens talk about county problems at the Wednesday meeting of the Sherman County club at Moro at 6:30 a. m.

Kenneth Fridley reviewed the report of the conference committee on schools and estimated that \$250,000 would be saved in ten years over and above the cost of a new high school building if high schools were consolidated. Total cost of an adequate high school was set at \$39,425 for a year with eight teachers provided. Such organization would provide laboratory facilities, physical fitness facilities and further educational facilities not now provided, the speaker said.

Merrill Qveson gave a brief history of weed killing chemicals saying that France first used sulphuric acid for this purpose in 1896. In the thirties some others were used notably oils, cyanide, ammonia sulphate. In 1938 sinox was tried and it was not until 1944 that 2,4-D was found. It is a different sort of chemical in that it does its killing by stimulating growth and thus killing the weed through starvation.

It must be mixed with soda or ammonia salts or alcohols to dissolve it in water although other mixes are being tried.

A resume of the highway work being done by the club was made by Giles French. The next meeting will be the topic of home beautification and recreation with Truman Strong and Carl Stierle as co-chairmen.

Funeral Held For Mrs George Potter And Mother

Funeral services were held in The Dalles Tuesday afternoon for Mrs Rosa Lavin Norcross of The Dalles and her daughter, Mrs Jessie Potter of Klamath. Mrs Norcross died in The Dalles Friday afternoon and her daughter followed her in death Saturday.

Both were long time residents of Sherman county. Mrs Norcross having come here in very early days. Her husband William Norcross died last October. Surviving her are five sisters, Mrs Ella Thompson of Hillsboro, Mrs Lillian Montag of Portland; Mrs Mollie Becker of Rupert, Idaho Mrs Mary Koks of Fortland and Mrs Adian Schwarzman of Portland and a half brother, Levoy Mrs Eva Woods of Portland.

Mrs Potter is survived by her widower, George A. Potter of Klondike former county judge of Sherman county.

Services were conducted in The Dalles by Rev. Claude Stephens of Wasco and interment was made in the IOOF cemetery there.

Many residents of Sherman county attended the funeral.

School Election Called For April By County Court

There will be an election on Saturday, April 17 in Sherman county on the adoption of the county school system. Petitions bearing 250 names were submitted to the county court Wednesday making the election mandatory. The law provides that the court upon the receipt of a petition bearing 100 valid names, must do so.

The court also accepted a check of \$201.00 from an agent for the Standard Fire Insurance company in lieu of its claim against the destruction of the dwelling on the experimental station. Investigation showed that the company had had the insurance since 1945 on a five year plan county and not the land or the building of the station having decided it to the state back when William Henrichs was county judge and William Walker and Duncan Chisholm commissioners.

The building is to be rebuilt by funds from the state restoration fund indicating that the state had ownership and that the county had suffered no loss through the fire. The county had no "insurable interest" in the county attorney.

Insurance has been carried for the buildings and at the present rate indications are that it has paid some \$1200 in premiums on property which it did not own.

Bills were paid and machinery salesmen given time to tell their stories.

Rufus Notes School Controversy and Resulting End

Sherman county has had some heated debates concerning their present school system. With the regulations saying a high school, to be standard must have a certain number of pupils, something has to be done. This hits Sherman county as it is so thinly populated. Some people want high school, and some just want to be left alone. Part of the people say they should have some new school buildings, others say to fill the almost empty ones they now have. Petitions have had enough signers for the county to call a special school election on April 17, to see who wants the county unit plan. When the school affairs are settled one way or another, folks can resume their quiet mode of life, but not without battle scars, and in some instances a few hard feelings.

Traffic was reported stalled for nearly an hour and a half and more than a mile long Saturday night, when a truck and trailer got broadside of the road on the Columbia River highway between Rufus and Ditty's service station. Due to the snow storm, ice formed on this particular part of the highway. Before the truck and trailer was righted again by an oil truck, it was joined by a passenger bus and several cars. No serious damage was done.

Chains were needed to buck the two inches of snow on the Rufus grade, that fell Saturday evening. State highway crews worked all night to clean the Columbia River highway of snow.

Members of the immediate family gathered, when Mrs William Macnab and Mrs Leland Medler entertained Sunday at the Alex Macnab home in The Dalles, with a bridal shower honoring Roseanna Macnab. An umbrella with red, white and blue streamers centered the dining room table, and held the gayly wrapped assortment of gifts. A decorated cake with the name of the bride and groom inscribed upon it, was served with coffee. Miss Macnab who is a daughter of Mr and Mrs Alex Macnab, is a graduate of St. Mary's academy and attended EOCE at LaGrande plans to wed Ruff McCougrand of Burns, who also attended EOCE on Saturday, February 7 at St. Peter's Catholic church.

The body of Ed Ashcroft was found January 24 across from Rufus on the Washington side of the Columbia river, near his cabin in the edge of a pond where he had gone for a bucket of water. Ashcroft was 86 years old September 29, 1947. He was born in England and came to the United States from Canada where he was a prospector and in this country worked on the construction of the Celilo canal and later made his living hunting Indian relics on the Deschutes, John Day, and up and down the Columbia rivers. The last twenty years he made his home at Cliffs, Wn., where he built a cabin on what is known as the Clarence Warren ranch, now owned by Andrew Jeter. Ashcroft leaves one niece in Canada and nephews and nieces in England, but not heard from since the war. His much worn bible was used at his funeral in Goldendale Tuesday, January 27. Burial was at the Maryhill cemetery.

There was a Christian young peoples zone rally held in Goldendale, Friday, January 30. Those attending from Rufus were Mr and Mrs Harry Hydron, Mr and Mrs James Tate, Mr and Mrs Ernest Engles, Clifford Trumbo, Mr and Mrs W. E. Rice and family and Mr and Mrs Fay Brackett. The Rufus quartet sang two numbers for them and every one had a nice time.

Mr and Mrs Gordon Reid and son, Gary, were Sunday dinner guests of Mr and Mrs David Reid of The Dalles. The Gordons are making a business trip to Portland Tuesday.

Quite a record crowd which was probably hindered on account of the weather, attended the Rufus schools formal dance Saturday night. The gym was attractively decorated in blue and white streamers.

Mr and Mrs George Jensen are living at Stiles on the Deschutes, spent Friday with Mrs Jensen's folks. Mr and Mrs Bruce Millard. Their daughter Sharon is staying with her grandparents while she is attending the local school.

The Rufus quartet was heard at 3 o'clock Sunday over the KODL radio station in The Dalles. Mr and Mrs James Tate who sing in the quartet were dinner guests before the broadcast of Mr and Mrs Worth Tate.

A hammer fell from a ladder in the house which the Fav Brackets purchased and have been working to make ready to rent and struck Mrs Fav Brackett on top of the head. Upon consulting the doctor who found no bones broken. Mrs Brackett was ordered to bed for a few days.

Snow and Wind Stop Traffic On All Arteries

A modest blizzard hit Sherman county Wednesday night and when residents awoke an east wind had drifted roads full of snow and stopped transportation almost entirely on both highway and country roads.

The temperature was 18 above Thursday morning and snow was falling rapidly and drifting. Drifts were four feet deep in some places and the ground was bare in others. School buses did not make trips and highway crews were trying to open the roads where they had been stopped. Two were on DeMoss hill.

The storm began Sunday and decidedly ended the mild winter up to February 1. A total of six inches fell early in the week and probably as much fell Wednesday night. Coldest nights of the year were Sunday and Monday nights when the mercury dropped to seven above. Radio prognostications were for continued cold until the end of the week with snow until Friday.

No schools were held. The truck stayed in Wasco on receiving information that the highway was blocked over DeMoss hill with drifts so deep a rotary plow was needed to open the road.

WASCO

The Tillicum card club met at the home of Mrs John Rovae Thursday afternoon. A 1:30 dessert luncheon was served followed by three tables of bridge. High score was held by Mrs L. L. Funk and low score by Mrs Andrew Shearer.

Mr and Mrs John Halvers of Portland were weekend guests of Mr and Mrs Fred Dornier.

Darlene Macheel was taken to The Dalles hospital Saturday and was operated on for appendicitis.

Mr and Mrs F. M. Crews spent the weekend in Stevenson, Wn., visiting their son and daughter in law. Mr and Mrs Marion Crews.

Mr and Mrs Jerry Barnett of Kennewick, Wash., were overnight guests of the latter's parents, Mr and Mrs O. W. Barnett Monday.

Mr and Mrs Charles Haynes of Bingen, Wash. are houseguests of Mrs Haynes' sister, Mrs Desta Hoyt.

Claude K. Andrews of Athena brother of Guy Andrews died January 28 and was buried in Portland February 2. He lived in Sherman county for many years.

Mr and Mrs B. W. Guy of Portland were weekend guests of the latter's mother Mrs Frank Lamborn and accompanied them to Portland for a few weeks visit.

GRASS VALLEY

Mr and Mrs Harve Cutts of Albany are the parents of a daughter born Thursday January 22 at the Albany hospital. The baby weighed 10 lbs 6 oz and was named Joann Winifred. Mrs Cutts will be remembered here as Audrey Vaughn when she taught in the local school. Mr and Mrs Jerry Coyle are the baby's grandparents.

Mr and Mrs Arzell Lemley and daughter, Carolyn, Mr and Mrs George Smith and daughter, Judy and Mr and Mrs Tom Saxton and family were among the shoppers and business visitors in The Dalles Saturday.

Mr and Mrs Glenn Perry motored to The Dalles Monday where Mrs Perry will stay at the home of Mr and Mrs Don Smith.

Mr and Mrs O. N. Ruggles spent Sunday in Moro visiting their mothers, Mrs Lucy Huggles and Mrs William Caughers.

Mr and Mrs Dean Reynolds and Mr and Mrs L. M. Rolfe were dinner guests at the home of Mr and Mrs J. W. Blagg Friday celebrating the birthday anniversary of Mrs Blagg. The afternoon was spent playing cards and visiting.

Mrs Boyce Blaylock and children and Mr and Mrs Ivan Stewart and family were among the visitors in The Dalles Saturday.

Mr and Mrs John Rust and Mr and Mrs Ed Alley were dinner guests Sunday evening at the home of Mr and Mrs John Block.

Mr and Mrs Dell Olds left Thursday for Stevenson, Wash., to visit at the home of their son in law and daughter, Mr and Mrs Marion Crews returning home Sunday evening.

Mr and Mrs Ralph Rust and Mrs Dick Salvadore and daughter were in The Dalles Friday on business.

Mr and Mrs A. A. Dunlap were hosts at a dinner party at their home Saturday evening in honor of Mrs Dunlap's birthday anniversary. Guests included Mr and Mrs Verne Mobby and family of Kent, Mr and Mrs Harry Hooper of The Dalles, Mr and Mrs Arzell Lemley, Mrs Doris Wilson and daughters, Connie and Dorothy, and Herman Peters Jr.

Mr and Mrs Kenneth Harford of Redmond were over night guests Wednesday at the home of his sister, Mrs James Easter.

Betty Saxton a student at St. Mary's academy in The Dalles came home Thursday on account of illness.

Mr and Mrs Harry Hooper came up from The Dalles Saturday to spend the week end at the home of her parents, Mr and Mrs A. A. Dunlap.

Del Eakin came up from The Dalles Wednesday and was an over night guest at the home of his son in law Myrl Smith.

Grass Valley felt the icy hand of winter the last few days, with the temperature close to zero the last two mornings. Snow started falling Saturday night and all day Sunday. About six inches of snow fell. The children are enjoying the snow by skiing and sleigh riding as the roads are pretty slick.

Mrs Willard Rolfe and children left Friday for Portland to spend a few days visiting her mother, Mrs Pat Kelly and other relatives.

Mr and Mrs John Rust and daughters and Mr and Mrs John Rust and daughter were dinner guests Thursday evening at the home of Mr and Mrs H. O. Duzger. The evening was spent playing pinocle.

Mr and Mrs Bill Brinkert left Thursday for Vancouver, Wash., on business and to visit relatives a few days.

Mrs Paul Goddard and family spent Saturday visiting at the home of Mr and Mrs Willard Barnett.

SAYS-VON BORSTEL WEDDING OBSERVED

Before an improvised altar in the choir room of the Moro Community church Mary von Borstel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Amanda von Borstel of Kent and Frank Says, son of Mr and Mrs Carroll Says of Moro, were married Sunday afternoon February 5 at one o'clock. The Reverend Mr William Gearhart read the beautiful service arranged by Dr. Bowman for many years pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Portland, which service was also used at Mr Gearhart's own wedding in Los Angeles several years ago.

In the enforced absence of Helen Sondenoe, Marv's sister, Reatha Coats served as matron of honor while Dean Pinkerton came from Corvallis to attend Margaret Pinkerton and Harold Whalley of Portland, cousins of the bride and groom respectively. Also present, other than the bride's sisters and brothers of the bride, was Mrs Margaret von Borstel of Oregon City, Mary's grandmother.

Following the ceremony Mr and Mrs von Borstel entertained the wedding party at a dinner prepared and served by Lloyd Johnson in the Woman's club building. The club room was decorated with baskets of the same fragrant cedar and heather as were used in the choir room and the center of attraction on the table was the bride's all white ca. wreathed in gardenias.

In mid afternoon the young couple fled (escaped) in a shower of rice for an undetermined, except by them—destination and will be at home to their friends after February fifteenth at their home near Moro.

HERMAN BURMEISTER DIES OF STROKE

Herman Burmeister, Sherman county resident for the past 30 years, died in The Dalles Tuesday night after a brief illness. He was taken to the hospital Monday after suffering a stroke at his home in Moro.

Mr Burmeister was born in Germany and was naturalized in the United States in February 1895. He was a tailor and until a few years ago continued his trade in Moro. Relatives are a sister, Mrs Helen Deyis of Rufus.

Funeral arrangements will probably await the weather.

BOY SCOUTS HAVE LONG LOCAL HISTORY

February 6 to 12th has been nationally designated as Boy Scout Week. In recognition of the 38th anniversary of scouting in America. The theme is "The scout citizen at work - in his Home - in his Community - in his Nation - in his World."

A scout from each of the twelve regions in the United States has been selected to go to Washington, D. C. to report to Congress and will appear at the secretariate of the United Nations in New York to report the accomplishments of scouting in America. This is the report of Scout Troop No. 351 to its community of Sherman county, which in its recent drive for funds contributed over \$300 to help promote the scout movement.

A Boy Scout troop was first organized at Moro about 1920. Reports from local citizens who were then members of the troop show it to have been an active organization. It has been difficult to maintain an active year-around scouting program here. At the end of 1942 the troop charter lapsed.

The troop was reactivated during the winter of 1946 and was becoming well organized when the summer activities in the harvest fields detracted attention and it was late in 1947 before interest in the troop was again shown.

The sponsoring organization of this troop is the Eureka lodge No. 121 A. F. & A. M. At present the troop consists of six boys who have earned the tenderfoot badge and will soon be second class scouts. These are: Norval Lane, Jimmy Roberson, Bobby Martin, Leslie Edwards, Terry Bucholtz, and Ronald Butler. Meeting with this group are six younger boys who are working for their tenderfoot badge and will be registered as scouts as soon as they have fulfilled the requirements and the age limit. These are: Edwin Balsiger, David Wright, Steven Oveson, Dean Martin, Frank Scherer and Larry Sayers.

On December 8 the sponsoring committee gave a father and son banquet for the scouts and fathers. Besides the regular meetings, the scouts have taken a hike, on which they cooked their own dinner over an open fire and ate it with forks and spoons they had whittled from wood. It is hoped in the future the troop will be able to perform services for the community. In this way the boy scouts can secure the good favor of the public and become a better organized troop. Conversations with local men who have been boy scouts or connected with the scout movement adds to the already large amount of evidence that many benefits can be derived from being a boy scout. Hearing tales of what the troop did before when it was well organized makes the present troop anxious to do similar feats.

School Inspector Reports On Standardization Status of Sherman County High Schools

The reports on the high schools of Sherman county have been received from the inspector who examined them in January.

The report on the Wasco and Rufus schools are similar in content both ending much the same as to recommendations, "the only solution of the problem lies in consolidation with another district or transportation to another district. Under existing law it is possible to consider the Rufus school district conditionally standard for the year 1947-48. In order to be standard in 1948-49, a school must have three full-time teachers and enough students to justify their employment."

Reasons enumerated (taken from the report on Wasco) 1) when classes are so small the situation is not conducive to class discussion nor are the students stimulated by competition. 2) "in a school this small it is difficult to keep teachers and administrators over a long enough period of time for them to best serve the needs of the school and community. For example, Wasco has had 18 teachers in the last six years." 3) "with only three teachers the number of offerings is limited by the schedule and also by the number of subjects which these teachers are prepared to teach." 4) "when the teacher has to prepare to teach several different classes each day and classes are small, it may be necessary to neglect some subjects." 5) "the cost is very high in schools of this nature. The outlay necessary for teachers, supplies, plant, and equipment is far above the per-pupil cost necessary for the operation of the larger school of equal quality. In the past the burden of cost has been borne al-

most entirely by the local taxpayer and as a result the policies were a local question. Under the present system of school support, school costs become the concern of both the county and state as well as the local district." 6) "the number and type of student activities possible are very limited."

"The Wasco high school was rated as conditionally standard on February 28, 1947. This rating will be continued until June 15, 1948, by which time some plan should be worked out whereby the school can become a standard school."

Of the Moro school the report says, "authorities at Moro are to be commended for their efforts to provide the students with a rather complete program of studies for a school of this size. Band, home economics, and industrial arts are desirable adjuncts to the academic program." Suggestions were 1) additional wash basins, 2) teaching of speech as a separate subject is recommended only; in schools large enough to have two sections, 3) effort should be made to have teachers work in the subject fields in which they are properly trained, 4) greater use by teachers of supplementary materials, 5) it seems advisable to have a girl's physical education teacher, 6) a longer period should be used for classes, 8) re-arrangement of cafeteria.

Loss of standardization means that the school in question would lose state support from the basic school fund. The county total next year will be some \$57,000 and proportionate amount would normally be paid to high schools on a per pupil basis and for transportation.

SCHOOL INSPECTOR REPORTS ON STANDARDIZATION STATUS OF SHERMAN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS

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