Oregon Historical Society
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Sherman County Journal

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These Things We Note

by Giles L. French

Postmaster Freeman has received his regular warning from the postoffice department about the old Spanish Prisoner swindle which some unimaginative crook is trying again. The human urge to get something for nothing is so great that it sometimes works even among people who are considered enlightened.

The prospective sucker gets a letter from a man who is being kept prisoner saying that he has thousands of dollars if he can only obtain a comparatively few dollars to obtain his release either by law or by bribery of a guard. He would be willing to pay a quarter, a third or even a a half of these many thousands for the loan of a few paltry dollars to effect his escape.

No one has even gotten his share yet although many dollars have been collected from those who thought the odds were good.

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"Vice is a monster of so frightful mien,
As to be hated needs but to be seen;
Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face
We first endure, then pity, then embrace."

—Alexander Pope

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Mike and Mary Ann Mulick, although comparatively newcomers to town, have been having some experiences that almost seem designed for their special benefit. It has been nearly 20 years since floods have washed through the lumber yard and this fall and winter there have already been two such times. They have lost a sidewalk, some stock and those carefully nurtured ducks.

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It appears now that the Palestine question will be settled by its bearing on the American presidential election. That means that this nation will continue to advocate the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine because there are more Jewish votes here than Arab votes. And also New York is a doubtful state and that is where the Jews are.

There may, of course, be another example of the old double cross as in the 1944 election when Roosevelt kept secret his agreement with Stalin to give 70,000 square miles of Poland to Russia until after the election thus assuring himself of a number of Polish votes.

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The writer has neither qualification or intent to boast about knowledge of skiing in any of its manifestations. In a real snowy country it undoubtedly has its values; as a winter sport it seems to be succesful in keeping the young and rugged out in the air and away from the comforts of home that are so eagerly sought and worked for.

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There is probably exhilaration in sliding down hill on a pair of slats that almost compensates for the climb back. It is a personal matter and many still prefer a book by the fire where one almost never gets his toes frost bitten.

Whatever excuse there may be in jumping off a bank on skis has not been explained. Jumping off cliffs is not likely a part of practical skiing even in snow covered Norway from whence come most of the jumpers It must be a form of exhibitionism But it is something that does attract a crowd.

Romans used to have some unwilling captives fight with wild animals, Spaniards boldly accost bulls in closed arenas, westerners mount unhappy horses, Norwegians take to the air on a couple of narrow slats without even a motor.

The only purpose of any of it is the danger apparently. Man competes with something entirely out of his class. Broken legs and wide scars are the labels of the trade in which an exhibition is judged by the physical damage that accrues to the contestants.

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If the whole nation was like the Bronx we'd have Henry Wallace for president—and a lot of other things we'd like even less.

Beautification Program Told To County Club

Sherman county granges are taking the lead in planning a county wide home beautification project said LeRoy Wright speaking before the Sherman County club Wednesday morning. The project is divided into two sections so that town residents can participate First is beautification of homes and the second is improvement of farm home sites.

The three granges have divided the county into areas the Kent grange reaching to Grass Valley. the Hardlandview to Moro and the Rufus grange to Wasco. Judges will appraise the results after next March 1 and award prizes in each area for each of the two classes. County winner will be given a trip to some well known garden.

Judging will be based on effort 50 percent. appearance 25 percent and progress 25 percent. Diagrams and pictures of before and after will be presented the judges.

First thing to be done, said the conference committee under Truman Strong, is clean up, paint up, then plant lawn and shrubbery.

It was announced at the meetin that a meeting of chambers of commerce of Oregon and Washington would be held in Moro March 9 to talk about the formation of a Highway 97 association.

Wily Knighten, Kenneth Zachary and Ed Eaves were named as a committee to see about signing the rural roads of the county. Congratulations on their recent advancement and a vote of appreciation for their work for the club were given Merle Becket and Carrel Bennett who had been notified of new jobs for the bank.

Moro Women Hear Of Oregon Books

The Moro Woman's club talked about books by Oregon authors at the Tuesday meeting and found two books of recent publication well worthy of review.

Mrs Collis Moore spoke of "We Called It Culture" by Robert and Victoria Case, a new book written about the Chautauqua sessions once popular. Mrs Merrill Oveson reviewed "Snadows on the Plain" a book by Mrs Carl Greve of Portland which gives some historical background of the settlement of Oregon.

MHS Boys Win From Papooses 45-19

Displaying their finest shooting form of theseason, the Huskies defeated the Papooses on The Dalles floor Friday night by a score of 45 to 19. Moro started off at a fast pace,building up a 16 to 6 first quarter lead, but suddenly went sour in the second quarter to leave the floor at half-time with a slim 18-14 advantage. The second half found the locals back in stride again as they repeatedly got in close for good shots to win easily. Hartley and Peters each bucketed ten points for Moro. while the backboard work of Nelson and Fred von Borstel was very good.

Moro		Papooses
Hartley (10)	F	(1) Griffiths
Harvey (2)	F	(2) May
vonBorstel, F. (4)	C	(2) Martin
Peters (10)	G	(2) Wray
Thompson (8)	G	(12)Barnhouse

Substitutes for Moro: Oveson, von Borstel P. (4); Nelson (4): May, Moore, Knighten (3). For Papooses: Clements, Denley Hiller, Smith, V. Medler.

Unless a return game can be scheduled with Condon early in March, the Moro Huskies will take the floor for their last game Friday, February 20 at Grass Valley when they meet the Parkdale quintet. As a preliminary, the Husky "B" squad meets Whittier Junior high of the Dalles at 7:15.

The Huskies have shown consistant improvement on large courts and this game should be a warm-up for the district tournament to be held in The Dalles next week.

The Moro grade school will Moro floor this same evening beginning at 7:00 which will allow spectators to also attend the the Moro-Parkdale game at Grass Valley

Kent Grangers Called To Meeting By George Wilson In Airplane

The Kent grange met in regular session Saturday night with a large crowd in attendance. Following the business meeting, Larry Fischer of Eugene entertained teh group with a sleight of hand performance. Mr and Mrs John Reckman were reinstated during the evening. Mr and Mrs Louis Sather, members of Harland View grange at Moro were visitors. Refreshments of chicken pie, salad and coffee and soda pop were served. Publicity for the meeting was furnished by George Wilson who notified the farmers from his airplane. Muddy roads made it almost impossible to reach members by car.

C. W. Cooley and son, Robert, paint contractors of Stevenson, Washington will finish painting the E. C. Smith home this week a..' will start working on the Jay McKay home.

Mrs Emma Davis entertained Saturday evening with a birthday dinner party in honor of her son, Luther. Those present were Mrs Helen Bothwell, Mr and Mrs Matt Simon, Mr and Mrs George Smith, Mr and Mrs Claus Bardenhagen, Mr and Mrs Clarence Young, Bill Bardenhagen, Henry Peters and Bob King.

Millard Howell anl son, David, arrived Wednesday from Sacramento, California. They are staying at the home of Millard's father, George Howell.

Mr and Mrs W. C. Helyer of The Dalles were dinner guests Friday at the home of Mr and Mrs Durward Helyer. They were visitors in the afternoon at the home of Mr and Mrs. Robert Helyer.

Mrs Barbara Norton and laughters, Celia and Nancy were overnight guests Saturday at the home of Mr and Mrs Harry Justesen.

Mr and Mrs Walter Bielski of Portland were overnight guests Wednesday at the home of Mr Mrs Clarence Young. Mr. Bielski is a featured accordionist with station KGW in Portland.

The George Bell post No. 49 of the American Legion and the Ladies auxiliary will hold a joint the Legion hall on the evening of February 26. The dinner will begin at 7:00 p. m. All members and eligible members and families are invited.

Mrs Frank von Borstel, Mrs Clarence Young, Mrs Walter Bielski, Mrs Theo. von Borstel, Mrs Claus Bardenhagen, Mrs Etta Buchana and Mrs Harry Young and children attended a meeting of the Ladies auxiliry held Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs Harold Owens of Grass Valley.

Mrs George Wilson was admitted to the Mid-Columbia hospital last Wednesday for medical treatment and was released on Friday.

Mr and Mrs Bill Jefferies and family were dinner guests Sunday at the home of Mr and Mrs

Mr and Mrs Ed Bredemeyer of Portland were overright guests Saturday at the home of Mr and Mrs. George Wilson.

Larry Fischer of Eugene arrived Saturday for a weeks visit at the home of Mr and Mrs George Wilson.

Kenneth Sather underwent an operation for a knee injury Thursday at The Dalles hospital. Mrs Sather and son, Paul, are staying in The Dalles at the home of her parents while Keneth is in the hospital.

Mrs Grover Young returned last Sunday from Portland where she has been visiting her daughter Mrs Florence Clark, who is recovering from a recent operation.

Mr and Mrs Louis Sather of Moro are staying at the home of their son, Kenneth, while he is in the hospital.

George Bell post No. 49 of the American Legion held its regular meeting Thursday evening. The Ladies auxiliary was invited to attend the showing of a color film of the San Francisco convention Refreshments of coffee and cake were served.

George Wilson flew his Taylorcraft to The Dalles airport and back Thursday afternoon. Lester Wilson flew his Seabee to The Dalles airport Thursday afternoon and left it for minor repairs.. Harry Young motored to The Dalles Sunday for a flying lesson with the S & M Flying Service.

Mr and Mrs Harley McKay and Mary returned Thursday evening from Bellingham where they have been visiting at the home of Mrs McKay's parents, who are making satisfactory recovery from injuries received in an automobile accident.

Mrs E. C. Smith and daughter, Virginia and Robert Cooley were dinner guests Friday evening at the Jay McKay home

Mrs Lester Wilson and dauzhter Erin have been guests for the past week at the home of Mr and Mrs Henry Smith of The Dalles. They returned home Friday with Nancy, who was released from The Dalles hosptial where she has been recovering from pneumonia.

Karen Wilson was a guest for several days last week at the Bill Jefferies home, returning home Friday evening.

Kent grade school defeated Grass Valley grade school 20 to9 in a basket ball game played Friday night at Kent. Leroy Martin was high point man for Kent vit eight points, and Merle Eakin for Grass Valley with four points.

Mrs Beatty Kelley is now in charge of the school lunch program. She replaces Mrs Clarence Young who resigned a short time ago.

Lincoln's birthday and Valentine's day were celebrated jointly with a program and party held Thursday at the grade school. A short play "The Prophesy" was presented by the upper grades. A Lincoln quizz was conducted by the intermediate grades with Paul Wilson as quizz master. The primary room was represented with a flag drill by the first and second grade group. and recitations from the third grade. Parties were held in the class rooms following the program.

ASSESSOR SAYS HELP

Assessor Bill Todd reports that less than two-thirds of the personal assessment statements have been returned to his office although they were sent out immediately after January 1. The law states that these must be returned to the assessor by March 1 and provides a penalty for failure to do so. Failure is usually found to be carelessness instead of intent to evade the law but the assessor has to have them to make up the roll.

Banker Becket Promoted; Banker Bennett Succeeds

Merle Becket, manager of the Sherman County branch of First National bank of Portland, has been appointed manager of the Heppner branch of First National, and Carrel Bennett, now assistant, has been promoted to manager of the Sherman County branch, according to word received here from Frank N. Belgrano, president of First National.

At Heppner, Becket replaces B. C. Pinckney, who has been advanced to the position of manager at The Dalles, in place of V. E. Rolfe, who has resigned to enter private business.

Becket originally came to Moro in 1943 as manager of the Sherman County branch, and has been here since except for one year at the Lakeview branch of First National. He came here from Wallowa, where he had been branch manager.

Becket was born in Heppner in 1909, and attended Oregon State college and the University of Oregon after graduating from Heppner high school. He was made assistant manaer of the Heppner branch of First National in 1934, going to the Wallowa branch later.

An active community leader throughout his years in Moro, Becket has been president of the Sherman County club, the Sherman County Riders, and local chairman of the recent Infantile Paralysis drive. He is an active Mason. Mrs Becket, who is teaching here, and their son, Paul, expect to stay until the end of the school year.

Bennett, new manager of he Sherman County branch of First National Bank, began his bankingcareer here in 1939 as bookkeeper, but acquired most of his experience in other towns, returning to Moro from The Dalles in 1946, as assistant manager.

From Moro Bennett went to Fort Lewis, Washington as teller for the National Bank of Washington. He rejoined the First National organization in 1943, going to Coos Bay as teller. He came back to Eastern Oregon at The Dalles in May 1945, as chief clerk, and from there to Moro.

Bennett was born at Bridgeport, Washington, in 1916, and was educated in the Chehalis public schools. He graduated from Washington State college, earning a B. A. degree. Mrs Bennett is a Moro girl, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. P. Brisbine. They have a three year old son.

RED CROSS MAN TALKS

Richard Evans, representative of the national Red Cross, visited the local chapter recently. In his report of a recent national meeting, he said that the government requested the Red Cross to set up an extensive blood bank program for two reasons. First, for civilian use in peace time to make blood and its many derivatives available to everyone at no cost except that for administering it.

Secondly, blood to be used in atomic warfare: He stated that the head of atomic research in speaking at this national meeting said that in case of war blood was the most important relief which could be given after an atomic bomb had struck an area and that the blood even in the banks would become radioactive and blood from other banks would have to be sent in.

Mrs Paul May has consented to act as campaign chairman. The quota to be raised is $2296 for Sherman county. 43.1% of this will be sent to national and the remaining 56.9% will be available for use in the county.

Wasco Cafe Sold

Mr and Mrs Andrew DeNoma have sold the Andy Cafe to Blanch Miller and Jo Hogue of Grass Valley and it is now open for business.

Mrs Leonard Fields was given a surprise pot-luck dinner Sunday honoring her birthday. Guests were Mr and Mrs W. C. Patterson and son, Jean, of The Dalles, Mr and Mrs T. L. Fields. Mr and Mrs R. E. Fields, Mr and Mrs Norman Fields and daughter, Carol of Moro and Mr and Mrs Basil Baines of Vancouver, Washington.

The Tester club met at the home of Mrs Paul McCoy Monday afternoon. A 1:30 dessert luncheon was served followed by two tables of contract. Mrs James Piskosky won high score.

Rufus Decides Against Transporting Pupils To Wasco School

At a special school meeting held at Rufus last Monday the voters gave a majority against consolidation with the Wasco district or for transportation to that district.

The first vote was taken on transporting both grade and high school pupils to Wasco and this was defeated by a 36 to 23 vote. On the proposal to transport high school pupils to Wasco the vote was 28 to 20.

There were complications in either proposal that affected the vote.

Tax Collections Good In Second Quarter

Collections of taxes for the second quarter of the tax collection year resulted in payments to the county of $3022.67, according to the report of Norman Fields, sheriff.

Of the above amount $2538.46 was collected from the current roll, leaving $4158.78 still uncollected from the total of $225,. 174.88 which was charged to the sheriff on the last assessment roll.

Nearly $500 in older taxes was collected the larger part of which will come to taxing units in Moro. The settlement of the Brisbine estate brought in this money.

Boy Scouts Find Paper Drive Good

The Moro Boy Scout troop was well satisfied with the amount of paper obtained from its first paper drive Saturday It is estimated that 500 poundis was gathered and bundled. This is being stored until a sufficient amount is accumulated to be sent to a paper mill.

The next collection is planned for February 28. All newspapers, magazines, and most large cardboards boxes are acceptable. Small scraps of waste paper cannot be bundled properly and are not desired.

The troop wishes to express its gratitude to those who contributed paper and who have promised to save paper. If people in the country have paper they would like to contribute, it would be appreciated if they would contact Bill Hall, telephone Moro 282, or 371 after 5 p. m.

Granges Initiate At Rufus Hall

By Mrs George Fox

Grange initiation for Sherman county was held at Rufus last Friday in spite of the bad road conditions.

The drill team headed by Master Vernon Miller called grange to order. Candidates present to take the third and fourth degrees were Cecelia, Tom and John Belloni from Kent; Carrie Nelson, Nadine Reynolds, and Elmer Nelson from Hardlandview and from Rufus Mr and Mrs Archie Brand, Mr and Mrs H. R. Hanson, Mr and Mrs Pete Finley, Mr and Mrs Frank Smith, Lois Steward, James Marr and Eugene Eaton. Candidates who were unable to make it were Mrs Ted Kelly and Jack Lyons of Kent and Mr and Mrs John Fulton of Rufus.

Out of town grange members who witnessed the work were Judge Jerry Wilson of Kent; Mr and Mrs Bob Belshe, Mr and Mrs Dean Reynolds, Gene Reynolds, Max Belshe, Althea Burnet, Helen Martin and Mr and Mrs Howard Ross from Harland-View grange. Mrs Charles Wilson was the pianist for the songs and marches. Supper served buffet style on a table decorated in red and white with a center piece of Valentine hearts hanging from a smal tree, consisted of sandwiches, salad, and pie.The supper committee with H.E.C. Mrs Joe Brackett in charge aided by Mrs Walt Morris, Mrs Elizabeth Kuypers, Mrs Grace Medler, and others served more than eighty people.

Mr and Mrs Dan Matovich and daughters Arlene and Dana, former Rufus residents, stopped over nihgt in Rufus Saturday night enroute to Kenewick where they have been transferred.

Friends are glad to see Stuart Macnab home after a sick spell in the hospital last week.

Johnny Mathieson seems to be on the sick list having some trouble with his legs.

Mrs Alta Smith drove to Goldendale Tuesday taking her father. Mr. Trumbo over for a visit with her aunt. Mrs Smith returned the same day.

The Gordon Reids were in Portland where they purchased a new car. David Reid was up doing the chores at the ranch during their absence.

Donald Bryant of Seattle, Wn. a former resident and a Rufus high graduate, called on friends in Rufus recently.

The snow nas gone, and left us with the mud. And Oh, what mud!

The Rufus grange drill team met for practice at thehall Wednesday and Thursday night.

Mr and Mrs Mrs T. L. Fields were hosts at dinner Wednesday for Rev. and Mrs Gene Chamberlain, and Rev and Mrs F. Claude Stephens.

Last Monday construction was begun on the Rufus grain elevator which is to have a capacity of 200,000 bushels. At present there are about a dozen men on the job.

With a salesman Mr. Ford of Portland, the county commissioners Vernon Miller, Joe Peters and foreman Jim Brown made a business trip to Prineville last Friday.

Mr and Mrs William Meyers left early Monday morning for San Diego, Calif. They will be gone about a week.

Bill McDonald, Howard Steward and Bill Smith motored to Fossil Saturday evening to attend the Rufus cs. Fossil games.

A Union Pacific extra gang composed mainly of Navajo Indians is stationed at the Dry Water tank while working on the tracks in this vicinity

RUFUS SCHOOL NOTES

The upper grade room and their teacher, Mrs D. D Williams sponsored a Valentine party given at the school house last Friday night. Circle games and a Valentine stunt game were played. The postmen for the Valentine box, were Donna Wilson, Tony Jiminez and Jack Steward. The tables, from where the refreshments were served, were decorated in red and white with two decorated cakes for centerpieces.

The following children of Rufus school have had perfecct attendance the first half of the year: Paul Williams, 1st grade; James Fox, 2nd grade; Elaine Eaton, 4th grade; Dottie Steward, 5th grade; Vincent Rice, 5th grade; and in the 6th grade are Dale Williams, George Fox and Vaneta Peck; Gayle Eaton and Donna Wilson in the 7th with none in the 8th. There were three in the high school, Donna Smith, senior; Darlene Smith, junior; and Jessie Rice, sophomore.

Snow Leaves Doing Some Harm In Process

The snow that had been partially melted by the Sunday thaw of a week ago left quickly Saturlay as a chinook came over the hills promising spring.

County and state roads are damaged because of the run-off which came Sunday, fields in the steeper parts of the county are rutted and washed and no little damage was done to city streets, railroad tracks and fences.

It is not considered likely that the damage will be as heavy as it was in the September flood of last year. At that time the county estimated the cost of road repair was $30,000. Many county roads are impassible because of frost going out or because of washing. The highway below Moro is cut clear to the pavement by the Byer's place, all the shoulder having been washed out. Water left the channel and again ran through Moro flooding the lumber yard and everything on the flat.

Fields south of Nigger ridge did not wash much there being less snow and all the snow was absorbed by the earth even in fallow fields. North of the ridge there was washing with some severe damage done where the ground was frozen hard and the snow deep. Estimates are that since the September storm more tilled earth has been washed from Sherman county fields than in any like period.

The weather has been warm and spring like, the snow has gone except for a few of the deeper drifts and farmers are talking about getting into the fields.