

Sherman County Journal

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Official County Paper

These Things We Note

by Giles L. French

I like eastern Oregon towns, especially the small ones—and most of them are.

There's a frankness about the residents and a friendliness that is still tinged deeply with native independence that keeps the stranger from presuming too much. They talk about their problems with little reserve without expecting sympathy, although aid might be welcome.

The women who meet the public are often noteworthy. Clear-eyed and clear spoken, they meet you as persons and not like the simpering clerks in the cities who may peer coying beneath their bangs as if their mind was more on their repressions than on your request to speak with the boss.

A memorable occasion was a breakfast at a very small town or stopping place at an hour of the morning when the cook and sole manager of the eating place was already preparing dinner for a crew of hay hands. Neat and trim and efficient she made breakfast for the visitors, perfect in the age-old qualification of women: to minister to the wants of men.

Maybe it's small towns themselves that cause people to be friendly but anyway they are—and it's fun to meet them.

Oddity in the election statistics: In North Heppner precinct there are 314 Republicans and 157 Democrats. In South Heppner precinct there are 314 Republicans and 157 Democrats. It is almost impossible to find any two precincts of exactly the same size to say nothing of finding two so close together with exactly the same number of Republicans and Democrats.

Cows that were thin a few weeks ago and bawling restlessly for their wobbly legged calves are now shedding rapidly and beginning to look sleek on the rich grass of the upper country. The mountain meadows have started to grow and the creeks run high with muddy water from the snow that has not yet melted. There is less wind in the hill country and the sun seems to do more good.

Towns change their characters but slowly. Even the advent of sawmills does little toward that end. Local people take off their high-heeled boots and put on loggers caulk but their mirth and their enjoyments are the same as before. They are men logging instead of men raising cattle but are still the same kind of men.

The sparrows probably suffered more than most species with the coming of the automobile. The inanimate auto made changes necessary in their very mode of life. The sparrow, however, is able to meet change and now can be seen picking dried and desiccated bugs off the grills of cars that have been moving fast enough to scratch that were once used to scratch that were used to hang on with. The sparrow intends to survive even in this motoring age and some day mankind might have to adapt himself to a change as far reaching.

Policeman: "But lady, didn't you suspect burglars had been in the house when you found all the drawers pulled out and their contents scattered all over the floors?"

Sher: "Certainly not! I thought my husband had been looking for a clean shirt."

Small boys are going to wrestle and box again to night and will no doubt provide a lot of fun in addition to getting some knowledge about what to do with their fists, which is valuable if mixed with a knowledge of what others can do with their fists.

Edward Young, who wrote in the early 18th century indited a line to Mr. Pope that is pertinent still: "The man that makes a character makes foes."

MAJOR INCREASE IN SHEEP EXHIBITS



Shown with his grand champion lamb of the 1947 show at The Dalles of the Eastern Oregon Wheat League is Stephen Oveson of Moro, also named the champion showman. At this year's 4-H show 80 sheep will be exhibited compared to 39 last year. Show dates are June 7, 8 and 9, with the place again Wink's Auction Yards in The Dalles.

International Wheat Agreement May Make Problems For Northwest Grain Growers

The International Wheat Agreement would not fix prices received by Oregon growers, according to an analysis by E. J. Bell of the Oregon Wheat Commission and OSC economists.

Prices of Oregon and other Northwest wheat largely will be set by government supports and other factors of supply and demand, they said.

The agreement, now before the U. S. Senate, was written by delegates of 36 nations at Washington, District of Columbia, in March. Under it the United States, Canada and Australia would agree to export 500 million bushels of wheat a year. The 33 importing nations would agree to buy that amount.

If ratified by the United States and the other 35 nations, the agreement would become effective August 1. It would be directed by an International Wheat Council.

Prices would not exceed \$2 a bushel and would not be less than \$1.50 the first year. The ceiling price would remain the same but the "floor" would drop 10 cents a bushel each year. During the fifth and last year the floor would be \$1.10. Prices would be based on Canadian dollars for No. 1 Manitoba northern wheat at Fort William-Port Arthur.

Portland prices for No. 1 soft white would range between \$2 and \$1.45 1/2 a bushel for the first year, less "such quality discount as may be mutually agreed upon by the parties concerned", according to a U. S. Department of Agriculture analysis.

No. 1 soft white was quoted at \$2.40 in Portland May 5. The economists said the average price at Portland from 1935 to 1939 was 85 cents a bushel. During those same years this nation exported only 42 million bushels a year.

The United States' "share" under the agreement would be 185 million bushels.

The analysis by the Wheat Commission and OSC economists showed the following: Advantages—(1) It would help assure outlets for all wheat raised by U. S. during the next five years. (2) It would discourage expansion of wheat production in importing countries. (3) It would put a floor under world prices above those received before World War II.

Disadvantages—(1) U. S. and other exporters would be selling wheat below present world prices. (2) Taxpayers would need to put up money for export subsidies. (3) Exporting countries might be unable to force importers to buy their allotment if wheat were available at lower prices elsewhere. (4) It would keep government in export business for another five years.

Aims of the agreement are to "assure supplies of wheat to importing countries and assure markets to exporting countries at equitable and stable prices." Bell said, however, Oregon would need to be alert if soft wheat and flour outlets were to be retained.

While 70 percent of the nation's wheat crop is used domestically, only 35 per cent of the North-

Historical Society Program Preparation Getting Along

The program for the 1948 meeting of the Sherman County Historical Society, which will be held at DeMoss Springs, Sunday June 6, is being arranged. Leslie Scott, state treasurer, will be the main speaker of the day and has chosen "Rates of the Trail" as his subject, one on which he is well versed, having written a history of Oregon.

Walter Meacham of the Territorial Centennial Commission, will attend and tell local members what has been done and will be done to commemorate Oregon history this year and next.

Meeting old friends and visiting will be given more time this year than before, which means a shorter program and more time to sit under the trees and talk about a time back when.

As in pioneer days food will have a part of the program and a picnic dinner will be spread on tables so the hungry—and who will not be—can eat.

School District vs. Neuner Case Called

Judge D. N. Mackay has requested attorneys in the Emigrant School District vs. Attorney General Neuner to set dates for oral hearings and it is hoped that the case can be heard before June 7. This legal action grew out of the Weir will which set up a trust fund for purposes which cannot now be fulfilled.

The district, through its attorney, is asking that other purposes be made possible. Donald Heister is attorney for the district and Rex Kimmel is appearing for Neuner.

'Bug' Hits Ditch, Man Injured

Charley H. Adamson of Rt. 4, The Dalles, wrecked a stripped down car on DeMoss hill early Monday morning when, for some unascertained cause, the machine took to the ditch, throwing the occupants out. Adamson was brought to town by Mrs. Jaenette Yocum and was taken to the hospital in the county ambulance. No serious injuries were found.

Wasco Takes Fourth Loses One By Ruling

The American Legion baseball team won from Heppner Sunday by a 9 to 7 score. Heppner and Wasco were tied for league leadership at three straight before the game.

Because of a decision made by league officials Arlington was declared winner of the May 9 game which went to nine innings after a dispute. Arlington was ahead at seven innings when the game was called.

Wasco plays Kinzua at Wasco this Sunday and hopes to continue its winning streak.

Sprague OKs McKay

If Oregon voters let the elements represented by bookie and gambling and slot machine syndicates entrench themselves in our political life, they will endanger the integrity of their government and open the state to the forces of evil, former Governor Charles A. Sprague, said in a radio address in Portland.

Sprague, who said he is throwing his full weight of influence behind Senator Douglas McKay for governor, urged the people to nominate and elect as governor one whose record shows he has the resolution and moral character and executive competence to resist pressures for lax laws and lax enforcement.

Comparing the legislative records of two candidates for the governorship, McKay and John Hall, Sprague pointed out where as Governor Hall has almost consistently voted with the liquor and gambling interests, McKay has voted the opposite way.

Sprague declared Oregon needs as governor a man of unimpeachable integrity, business ability, warm personality, decisiveness and courage and good working knowledge of the state, and he was convinced McKay passes all these tests with a high rating.

Crop Year Moisture 5 inch Above Normal

Up to the latest rain 15.27 inches of precipitation had been recorded at the experiment station since September 1.

To May 1 the rainfall for this crop year was exactly five inches more than the normal which is 9.44 inches. So far for May there has been .83 inches whereas the normal is .78 for the entire month.

And there are the bald figures which tell nothing of trucks still getting stuck in sown fields, of roads still rutted from recent storms, of long delayed field work and soddy summerfallow.

Rain has been the lot of this section of Oregon with almost continuous regularity since September 27 when the heavens opened so widely they have not been able to get closed again. December was a comparatively dry month, there being but .55 inch instead of the usual 1.64.

It really has been cold, too. Mean average for March (it was mean, too) was 38.8 degrees and while Marches aren't often warm the average temperature is 42.2. Although April figures are not yet available at the station the daily readings indicate they are not much better than those for March and even here in May an overcoat is standard equipment.

Gardeners are pulling their first radishes and onions but plants that require the sun are still behind. Tender plants set hopefully in the garden have perished in some of the frosty nights, the last of which was the 14th. Average date of last spring frost is May 8.

Total precipitation has broken all station records, the former highest being the 14.5 rainfall between September 1 and June 1 which occurred in 1942-43. This year there is an inch more than that.

VFW and Auxiliary Elect Officers

At a recent meeting the Sherman County Post V.F.W. and auxiliary elected new officers for the current year. These newly elected officers were installed jointly with The Dalles Post V.F.W. new officers at a meeting in The Dalles.

Those elected for the Post are: Bob Boynton, commander; Ivan Blarg, senior vice commander; Dick Holdaway, junior vice commander; Bill Brinkert, adjutant; Eldon Lane, chaplain; Frank Sayers and John Rust, trustees; Norris Gilkison, patriotic instructor.

Elected for the auxiliary were: Beatrice Howell, president; Myrtle Rust, senior vice president; Ruby Brinkert, junior vice president; Marion Boynton, conductor; Kerrone Christanson, secretary-treasurer; Hattie Spencer, guard; Mary DeMoss and Donna Lane, color bearers; Carmen Brown, patriotic instructor; Belle Bown, chaplain; Etha DeMoss, musician; Sylvia Gilkison, trustee.

SHANTIKO

By Mrs. Maude Garrett

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Hanks, Mrs. Glade Carrigan and daughter, Pat, were visitors Wednesday night in The Dalles where Mrs. Hanks remained to undergo a major operation Thursday.

Mrs. Edward Carter of the Bakeoven district was in the hospital the first part of the week.

Mrs. Amanda Fine visited her sons at Antelope Tuesday and stayed until Saturday.

Joe Morelli went to Portland Wednesday to get his pick-up which was there for repairs.

Word has been received here that Wilburn Frazier of Pacoima, California was kicked in the head by a cow at the dairy where he works and that his vacation trip to Antelope will be postponed to a later date.

Joe Morelli and J. S. Holt drove to Prineville Friday.

Bill Garrett went to The Dalles to see a doctor about a minor accident to his finger sustained while working on the Kent elevator.

Donald McRae and Jimmie Dillon of The Dalles spent the week end here visiting friends and attending the funeral of Alex Campbell of Antelope.

Highway 97 Ass'n Elects Oregon Directors At Bend

A meeting of the Oregon section of the Highway 97 association was held at Bend Friday night. Purpose was the election of directors from Oregon and California and further discussion of the budget.

Chosen were Giles French of Moro and Wilford Josey of Bend for two year terms and Guy Wade, Madras and Malcolm Epley, of Klamath Falls for one year terms. C. E. Motschenbacher of Dorris, California will be the director from that state.

When Washington has elected directors a joint meeting will be held in Moro for complete organization. A budget of \$2000 for each state was recommended and the portion to come from Sherman county was set at \$150, which is now being raised.

PMA Calls For Insurance Meet

Sherman county PMA committee O. G. Hilderbrand, Russell Belshee and Frank von Borstel, are now about midway in the process of setting up new wheat insurance rates and coverages made possible under provisions of recent changes in the federal crop insurance program. Work is expected to be completed about May 28.

After new rates and coverages are set up in Sherman county, present wheat insurance policy holders will have the option of changing their policies to take immediate advantage of the new changes, according to County Agent Wright.

Coverage under the new program will provide between 60 and 65 percent of an average crop as compared with the old maximum level of 75 per cent yield insurance. Under the changes proposed, coverage will no longer be established on an individual farm basis, but rather on an area basis. These area rates and coverages are now being set up by county PMA committees with the assistance of ranchers in the areas concerned. Premium rates are expected to be materially reduced when the new form of insurance goes into effect.

The problem facing county PMA committees now is to divide the county's wheat lands up in such a way that all farms having the same producing capacity and comparable degree of insurance risk will have identical coverage and premium rates.

Wright states that a sliding scale of premium rates play an important role in the new insurance program. For instance, a rancher with more than 1000 acres of wheat will qualify for the highest premium discount, 20 percent. Moreover, if premiums on all sized acreages are paid in cash prior to established dates, another 5 percent discount is allowed.

Those called to aid the county and community committees for Wasco and Locust Grove are: Floyd Root, L. P. Haven, Damon Fields, Gordon Harper, David Reichelderfer, Fred Dormalier, Vernon Miller, Leland Medler, and Kenneth Walker.

Graduates End School Days As Terms Finish

Graduation time finds Sherman county with 17 boys and girls ready to finish their high school courses. Of these nine are from the Moro school although all but one are from Grass Valley and Kent. The commencement exercises for them will be held next Thursday evening, May 27 and James Hartley, Richard Oveson, Herman A. Peters, Philip T. von Borstel, Carl I. Zeigler, Verena June Coyle, Sammie Lyons, Sharon Ardenne Martin and Lola Jean Zevely will graduate.

At Wasco both the high school and grade school ceremonies have been held May 20th being the date of commencement there. Finishing high school were Patricia Kaseberg, James White and Louis Lutje.

Rufus High School will have commencement exercises next Thursday when Shirley May Yocum, Audrey Mae Blackburne, Donna Jean Smith, Velda Marie Guilford and William H. McDonald will end their local school days.

A grade school commencement will be held at Grass Valley Monday May 24 at which time grade school graduates Kent, Grass and other Northwest producers Valley and Moro will finish. From Grass Valley the pupils finishing are Duane Eakin, Barbara Alley, Margaret Reckmann, Geraldine Rust and Lois Kelly.

From Kent are Leroy Martin, Arthur Buehler and Doran Fritts. From Moro are Norval Lane, Robert Martin, James Roberson, June Scherrer and Juanita McClain.

Rufus grade school graduates who will hold exercises at the same time as the high school are John Fowle Steward, Norman Hans Brand, Tony Victor Jimenez, Roger Vernon Miller.

Wasco grade school graduates who finished Thursday night were Gordon Buck, Betty Dormalier, Robert Howell, William Nisbet, Marvin Richards, Erma Jean Wallace, Jeanne Watkins, Janet Workman, Joe Yocum and Leo Roberts.

American Legion Ball May Be Played

A game of baseball will be played at Grass Valley Sunday afternoon at 2 p. m. between an American Legion team from The Dalles and a team of boys from this county.

There is a likelihood that if a team of boys can be organized here it can enter the race for the district composed of Corbett, Hood River, Bonneville, and The Dalles. Boys must be under 17 as of January 1. Those boys interested should be at Grass Valley by one o'clock Sunday.

TAX TURNOVER MADE

Turnover of taxes by the sheriff's office as of May 15 was small but indicative that there are not many taxes to pay. On the current roll the turnover was \$1035.82 and on the delinquent roll was \$16.85. Remaining delinquent is a mere \$3132.31 showing payment of nearly 98 percent of the taxes for the past year.



WAR BRIDES FROM NIPPON . . . Now it's Japanese war brides who are starting to arrive in the United States in greater force. Home from occupation duty in Japan, these are two of the American soldiers who landed in Seattle with their newly won Japanese wives. Sgt. and Mrs. Vincent F. Costello of Philadelphia (left) and Cpl. and Mrs. Doyle Sims of Memphis, Tenn., are interviewed by a customs officer upon their entry into the U. S.