

**Sherman County Journal**

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Giles L. French Editor

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**OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

In recent years, especially since the centralizing trend started by the new deal, local governments have become less powerful.

We think it stands as an axiom of democracy that local governments should be strong. Unless people can take an interest in their city, school district, and county government and have some power over government action through these smaller agencies of government, all democratic processes will eventually fail.

The path that leads to centralization leads also to loss of power by the people and dictatorship.

Efforts to strengthen local government have been taken by the people of Oregon by the passage of the county manager plan and the rural school law. It is true that both of these contain an element of centralization. But it is centralization on a local level. No power is taken away from the county as a unit.

Counties have gradually been losing power. A county court has no legislative power at all and cannot obtain such power except under adoption of the county manager plan. In Oregon the legislature must do many things for counties that counties could do better for themselves. Herd laws, fence laws, weed laws, soil conservation laws, county salaries are all examples of things counties should be empowered to act on.

As to schools the general tendency is to provide money from state or federal government for local schools. With these grants of aid there always comes control or regulation which means that eventually the local district must look to the state or federal government for everything. The larger the governmental unit that handles the money the larger the cost.

Purpose of the two above laws has been to strengthen local government so it will be able to withstand the onslaught of centralization on a state or federal level.

Opposition to them has come from those who do not realize that it may be wise to centralize on a local level in order to combat the tendency to centralize on a larger level.

As long as county government and local district government is inefficient it is subject to all sorts of schemes for reform or centralization. The tax system of small school districts brought hardship to poorly financed ones and education suffered. County government has been reduced to partial supervision over roads and little else. It is time both were strengthened.

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**In Other Days**

From the Observer, May 31, 1929

Lloyd Hennagin and Henrietta Akers, students at the University of Oregon, returned home with surprising announcement that they had been married since April 12.

A large bull snake camped around town last Friday evening and finally rode home on the frame of Frank Burnet's car. A. A. Dunlap, J. L. Davis, G. C. Young and J. H. Gregg drove around by the Clarno oil well Sunday and on into Condon for the ball game.

From the G. V. J. May 30, 1919

There was quite an excitement at the elevator Saturday when the leaders of one of the Gus Engstrom's teams went in to the elevator pit.

C. E. Davis who had been in France with Base Hospital 46 returned home Saturday. The field meet has been called off because of the small pox scare in Wasco and Grass Valley.

The elevator has ordered five 2000 bushel grain bins.

From the Observer, May 28, 1909

The first rain in about 90 days was welcomed here Wednesday. Frank Sayrs has the auto hack, an up to date horseless wagon purchased through the Moro Hardware Co.

A man was here from Philadelphia last week taking orders for fans - a thing a little needed as the lightning rod.

The open Columbia river boats deliver freight and passengers at Lewiston, now three days from Portland.

A state oiling crew started at Rufus and resurfaced the streets in Wasco and moved on to Grass Valley. Three cars of oil are on the track here and some local oiling is scheduled.

**NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has filed in the County Court of the State of Oregon for Sherman County her Final Report and Account as Executrix of the Last Will and Testament of Daisy Hennagin Belshe, deceased, and that Saturday, the 26th day of June, 1948, at ten o'clock A. M. of said day, at the County Court-house, at Moro, Oregon, has been fixed by the Court, as the time and place for hearing of objections to said Final Report and Account and the settlement of said estate.

Frances Ekstrom  
Geo. G. Updegraff,  
Attorney for Executrix 30-3c

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Meets 2nd and 4th  
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month. Visiting  
members welcome.  
Bertha Belshe N. G.  
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**COLUMBIA RIVER HIGH**

Fear was voiced that the Columbia river might duplicate its flood stage of the nineties. The Columbia river at Rufus has covered most of the land up on the river side of the railroad track. Some of the people that had cattle in pasture there moved them to higher ground. The John Day river was not running as

much water Monday as it was on Sunday when it reached a record high for the year. Many good logs and drift wood was seen riding the torrent. The snow in the head of the river was warm balmy days have melted.

**T. Lester Johnson**  
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Wasco, Oregon

We do lots of things  
There's the bus station, and newspaper agencies, Oregonian, Journal, Chronicle and MHS Optimist too, and the public phone, and magazines and we feed you and refresh you. Quite a place we have, come in. We can do something for you.  
**THE TAVERN**

From where I sit... by Joe Marsh  
It's Leap Year, Girls!  
First girl in our town to "get her man" on Leap Year was the Cuppers' daughter, Jane, who wed Bill Webster's boy last Saturday.  
When I asked Bill Jr. if it was true that Jane really did the proposing, Bill said: No, but she made it plain she'd make an ideal wife. Instead of looking for diversion or excitement every evening, she was content to chat beside the fire.  
"I could plainly see," says Bill, "that we'd really have a happy home life—which is just exactly what I want from marriage."  
I know it's usual for older folks to shake their heads over the younger generation. (It's gone on for hundreds of years, now.)  
But from where I sit, young people of marrying age today are every bit as commendable as their elders were—in their temperance (a glass of beer for instance), tolerance, and common sense. So to Jane and Bill—the best of luck!  
Joe Marsh  
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bringing down muddy waters to flow onto the Columbia making it just as dirty colored as its tributaries.

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and  
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**19 MILLION CALLS A DAY**  
1. Down the line come telephone instruments... your first link with an amazing system. They're sensitive and complex—but just a small part of the facilities required to connect your home with millions of others—and handle nineteen million calls a day. That's Pacific Telephone's present average. In 1940 it was 11,000,000 calls a day.  
2. Intricate switching equipment like this must be practically custom made and installed before telephones can be used. You've probably never seen it...but it's on the job every time you make a call. And there's still more to the story. Land and buildings and other equipment must be provided—all of it's expensive.  
3. "Roadways of speech"... telephone lines and cables... have to be ready to carry the calls. There's nearly fourteen million miles of wire now at work in the West...and more is being added every day. Handling more calls than ever in our history keeps all our facilities mighty busy—along with the telephone people who man them.  
4. Where does the money come from? Millions of new working dollars... needed to extend and improve service... must come, not from telephone bills, but from thousands of people who put their savings to work in the telephone business. To attract these working dollars, we must pay a reasonable amount for their use. This depends on the sale of our services at fair and adequate prices.  
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