

# Sherman County Journal

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Official County Paper

## These Things We Note

by Giles L. French

Twenty or thirty years ago an experienced wheat grower could walk through a field of wheat and estimate it pretty correctly at 7 sacks or 8 or maybe a big whopping 10 or 11.

Bulk handling and the change to the bushel basis made the estimator be twice as nearly correct unless he wants to scatter his shots by saying 20 to 25 bushels.

Many estimators are rather helpless in a year like 1948 because they are not used to passing judgment on so excellent a crop. A man who could tell the difference between 7 and 8 sacks is no better than an amateur at deciding whether a crop will make 40 or 45 bushels.

There hasn't been much guessing about crops, either. Farmers put a figure on them for insurance purposes, but street corner estimates have been, "It's good," or "Won't make over 25 bushels."

Pursuing still further the theory of "Enjoy Yourself, It's Later Than You Think" Edgar Lee Masters in "Spoon River" contrasts Cooney Potter who "inherited forty acres from my father. And, by working my wife, my two sons and two daughters from dawn to dusk, I acquired a thousand acres. But not content," etc., until the old Simon Legree passed on before sixty still denying himself and those about him.

And Fiddler Jones who "Never started to plow in my life. That some one did not stop in the road. And take me away to a dance or picnic. I ended up with forty acres; I ended up with a broken fiddle. And a broken laugh, and a thousand memories. And not a single regret.

Most of those who write on the subject choose the side of the eat, drink and be merry crowd. That is those who write the stuff that gets into the books of poetry and essays.

When one turns to the library shelf labeled economics the story is different. The well loved Ben Franklin, whose record for enjoyment is much better than one might judge from reading him, advised "Never leave that till tomorrow which you can do today," and "Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of," and other such epigrammatical advice.

Of course there are well known expressions for all philosophies and one can pursue almost any kind of life while following some well worn phrase, except dishonesty and deceit, of course. There is no decent philosophy that condones them.

The federal tax in Oregon was roughly \$225 per capita, the state tax \$45, the county tax \$110 and the city tax in Wasco \$15. The county tax includes the school except for that part that comes from the state—about a third. Actually Sherman county paid much more than the average in federal tax and state tax, too.

And in 1946 for every \$1000 in income \$314 was spent for government. That means that we are nearly a third socialist. When all income is taken by government and spent by it we will have gone all the way.

Both big Portland papers are having trouble with their new presses as any reader can plainly see. Well, it takes time to get everything adjusted and working properly in a new machine. New kinds of ink, new ways of making pictures and a lot of other new things will be learned before the papers look as well as they did off the old presses. We've had a whirl at that ourselves.

Time is only valuable when used. A man has about 70 years on this earth in which to do the things he may want to do. There is time enough for nearly all of them.



Eastern Oregon Wheat League Fat Stock Show & Sale officials, buyers of Sherman county stock 4-H club boys and girls and guests dined on prime club beef at the Moro park Friday night with the club boys and girls as hosts.

Slicing the beef is LeRoy Wright while waiting are Mrs. Grant Perry and Mr. Perry, licking his lips in expectancy and Emil Maurer of Antelope. In the background are Wendell Balsiger, Eva Landry, Norman Fridley and Millard Eakin.

## First Rufus Returns Are 40 Bushels per Acre

Curt Tom began harvesting his wheat crop last Friday. He reported a yield of forty bushels and was about the first farmer on the hill to begin operations. Leland Medler and Fay Brackett and the Macaah brothers outfit pulled out in the field Saturday. Monday morning turned cool and windy after most of last week's terrifically warm days, and found less than half of the farmers ready to pull into the fields, although they are expected to start towards the end of the week. The farmers are all anticipating a bumper crop.

A guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Dingle Tuesday and Wednesday of last week was Mrs. Ethel Emmet of Ashland. Mrs. Emmet is a cousin and a child playmate of Mrs. Dingle and they had not seen each other for fifteen years.

Charley Lemley of Hood River and his boy friend Don Sievers are visiting at the home of his uncle and aunt, Mr and Mrs. Richie Dingle.

Mrs. Leo Dumler and sons left Wednesday for her home in Salem after visiting here since the 4th with relatives and friends.

Donald Bryant spent his vacation in Rufus at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Huck. Bryant who is from Seattle is employed as an assistant tool buyer for a wholesale house there. He came Monday and left Saturday, spending one night with James Coats, a former school mate. Bryant is well known here attending the Rufus school for many years, graduating in 1942. After which he with his parents Mr and Mrs. Joe Bryant moved to Seattle.

Miss Barbara Rice who arrived in Rufus Saturday is visiting at the home of Rev. and Mrs. W. E. Rice and family. Mrs. Rice, mother of Rev. Rice is from Moscow, Idaho and expects to return home the middle of the week.

Mr and Mrs. Carl Casey and family of Dufur had Sunday dinner and spent the day visiting at the home of Mr and Mrs. George Blackburne, parents of Mrs. Casey.

Miss Mary Brackett is expected home from summer school in Eugene this Friday or Saturday.

Mrs. Bert Gooden who has been ill here at the home of her mother, Mrs. Hugh Mathieson was taken to San Francisco by her husband two weeks ago Tuesday morning she was to have major surgery at St. Joseph's hospital there.

Grant Boise who is in the armed forces is home on a months furlough. Grant and his wife spent the week end at the home of his parents, Mr and Mrs. Pres Boise in Camas, Wash., and went on to the coast before they returned to Rufus Monday evening at the home of Mrs. Boise's parents, Mr and Mrs. Curt Tom.

David White of Willow Creek is employed during harvest at home of Mr and Mrs. Claude Coats.

Bob Drago of Eugene, a nephew of Mrs. Miller is employed for the summer at the Vernon Miller place. Also working for the Millers is Donna Alford of Portland.

## Fort Dalles Centennial Celebrants Plan Invasion of Moro Saturday Night

Moro will be the first city to be invaded by the motley collection of Dalles residents who, as Brothers of the Brush and Sisters of the Swish, are willing to perform almost any antic to draw attention to the Ft. Dalles Centennial Days celebration to be held in The Dalles August 26, 27 and 28.

The cavalcade, first of a series planned to cover the entire Mid-Columbia area, is scheduled to visit Moro Saturday night this week. Those in charge of the trip would not disclose details other than the fact that horsemen will take their mounts with them, in trailers, and ride into the city about 8 o'clock that evening. Old-fashioned garb will predominate.

Cavalcade members won't be passing out any wooden nickels but will probably issue plenty of reasons why residents of Sherman county should plan to take in the three days of the celebration.

The Centennial Days are tied in with Oregon's observance of the 100th anniversary of the admission of the Oregon Country as a territory of the United States. A feature of the celebration will be a mammoth historical pageant depicting much of the history of this area.

Wooden nickels actually will soon be in circulation as a means of publicizing the event. They will be issued by local business houses as change and may be spent as legal currency. But Centennial Days officials hope most of the wooden money will be kept as souvenirs, so that the revenue may be applied toward cost of the celebration. The Dalles post No. 19 of the American Legion is sponsor of the three-day event.

## Historic Old Land Offices Being Closed As Free Land Era Ends In West

A major move in the Department of the Interior program for streamlining public land administration in the West was made in President Truman's issuance on July 14, closing five outmoded Federal Land Offices in Oregon and the Dakotas, Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug said today. Under the order, District Land Offices maintained by the Bureau of Land Management at Lakeview, Roseburg, and The Dalles, Oregon will be consolidated into a single Land and Survey Office in Portland. The changes are scheduled to become effective July 30.

The closing of obsolete land offices and the transfer of trained personnel to more strategic locations is only one of the steps contemplated by the Bureau to reduce costs and to provide the decentralized handling of public land matters authorized by Congress in the 1949 Interior Appropriation Act. Within the next six months a large bulk of the services now being rendered by the Bureau in Washington will be handled on the spot in revitalized local Land and Survey Offices, Director Marion Clawson pointed out. The Roseburg office was established 88 years ago. The Dalles 73 years ago, and Lakeview 71 years ago. Once the mecca of throngs of land-seeking pioneers the volume of current business in these offices today is insufficient to justify their separate operation under the modern streamlined program.

REA Borrows More Contraction Funds

The Wasco Electric cooperative, with lines in Sherman county, received an additional \$575,000 as a loan from the federal agency last week when Eric Johnson, manager and several members of the executive committee were in Seattle to meet with the administrator.

The money will be used to build a high voltage line from Mapain to Clarno to provide power for irrigation. A 66,000 volt line is contemplated. Some other additions will be made with the funds and a building will be constructed in The Dalles for the company offices and warehouses. A new line 98 miles long to serve 88 customers is also planned.

Sherman County Riders held a picnic at the Moro park last Sunday and then finished the day by going to the fair grounds to ride and practice drills for coming events, among them the Sherman county fair. A short business meeting was held.

## Sale Plan Offered Wheat Men As Well As Loan

Farmers who do not choose to take a loan on their 1948 crop have an opportunity of receiving producer price support by applying for a Purchase Agreement.

Under this part of the AAA program, the producer by signing this agreement, and paying 1/2 cent per bushel service fee will be assured of receiving the loan rate per bushel for whatever amount of grain that he elects to sell to Commodity Credit next April. There is no obligation to sell to CCC and the grain remains in the producer's possession at all times.

These agreements are available up to December 31, 1948, on wheat and barley.

The county loan rate for Number 1 wheat is \$2.04, and for Number 1 barley is \$1.28 per bushel.

## Club Boys and Girls Entertain With Barbecued Beef

Four H club children and their parents were hosts Friday night to the buyers of their beef and pork and mutton at The Dalles stock show and sale last month. Officers of the show were additional guests.

Entertainment consisted of a bounteous barbecue prepared by County Agent Wright, to which was added vegetables, salad, coffee, buns, ice cream and cake until everyone was either contented or past that stage.

Some before dinner talks were given by the officers of the show and the association that manages the event. Especially important for the children was the presentation of checks for sale of stock and for prize money. The total of these was in excess of \$11,000. Buyers were called up to take a bow along with the producer.

## Wheat Harvest Starts With Optimism

Harvesting is going on in Sherman county but there are few well substantiated returns on which to base a more accurate estimate than has been made before.

Cutting started the last few days of last week east of Klondike and north to the Columbia and some have puffed into the field west of Wasco. So far only a few acres have been threshed and very few fields are completed.

Estimates are, if any, higher than before a start was made. The country east of Klondike, that is not famous for consistent yields, is reported to be turning out 40 bushel per acre. The rim land farther north is doing as well and no one has reported much less than that.

The heavy yielding land will produce its usual return of 30 bushels and then 10 or 15 more. But what will give the county the big figures to remember the year by, will be the poorer land which, in many cases, will produce 30 or 40 bushels this year.

Harvesting will begin around Moro the last of this week and the first of next depending on whether the east wind blows or the west wind cools off the atmosphere. Wheat is already pouring into Hay Canyon which will get the greatest boost in intake of any of the central region states.

The crop in the Wasco section is estimated at 1,500,000 bushels by the directors of the Sherman Cooperative Grain Growers, all farmers. At Moro Wendell Balsiger thinks the Moro section of the county will warehouse 1,200,000 bushels of which the greater part will be at Hay Canyon, where 700,000 bushels are expected. This is more than the entire section received in 1947. A. A. Dunlap, manager of the Grass Valley Grain Growers estimates the crop in that part of the county at 1,000,000 bushels. Spring grain has quite a ways to go he explains.

Total acreage of the county is 134,000 says LeRoy Wright, county agent, of which about 4,000 acres are in barley. Between two and three thousand acres have been cut for hay leaving about 128,000 acres for wheat crop.

At an average of 30 bushels this will make 3,840,000 bushels. And so far, no one has reported a yield of less than 35 bushels per acre.

LeRoy Belshee north of Wasco brought the first load of wheat to the Wasco elevator and the 100 acre field made 43 bushels when finished. Estimates at Hay Canyon are 40 bushels and farther north, also in a light land section, the same story is told.

There is enough evidence already at hand to prove that 1948 is going to be a big year, perhaps the biggest; certainly the biggest in money returns.

## ALL CROPS GOOD

According to the July crop report of the USDA, crop production in 1948 promises to surpass output in the outstanding year of 1942, and the record set in 1946. The acreage in crops is among the largest in recent years and yield prospects are very good for most crops. The corn acreage, though relatively small, is a half million above intentions and a record production of more than 3.3 billion bushels is now indicated. The wheat prospect of 1 billion 242 million bushels is an improvement of 4 percent over earlier forecasts and will be the second largest crop in our history. Rice will set a new acreage record and nearly equal last year's record production. Oats and barley will be well above average crops. Cotton acreage is 10 percent larger than in 1947. The second largest crop of flaxseed is forecast. All-crop prospects are reported above the average of the past 10 years and as good as in 1946. Current estimates indicate aggregate production about 128 percent of the 1923-32 average, compared to 123 percent in 1942 and 126 percent in 1946.

A drivers license examiner will be on duty in Moro Thursday July 29, 1948 at the Courthouse between the hours of 10 a. m. and 3 p. m.

## Mrs. Will Morgan Buried At McMinnville

Funeral services were held Monday July 19 in McMinnville for Opha E. Morgan, daughter of Mrs. Emma Sayers and the late Frank A. Sayers. Mrs. Morgan died as the result of injuries suffered in a train-car collision on their farm near Sheridan last Thursday July 15.

Opha Sayers was born near Prineville March 25, 1883 and moved to Sherman county with her parents the following year. In 1901 she was married to William A. Morgan at Moro. To this union six children were born, all of whom survive, Mrs. Don Titus (Zola) of Eugene, Ray and Art of John Day, Avery and Maurice at home in Sheridan and Mrs. Charles Whittier (Dorothy) of Spokane, Wash. She is also survived by seven grand children and two great grand children.

Mr. Morgan who was also seriously injured in the same accident is at the Portland Sanitarium and at last report his condition had shown some slight improvement.

Those attending the funeral from here were Mr and Mrs. Carroll Sayers, Mr and Mrs. R. T. Morgan, Mrs. Clare Axtell, and Mrs. Edith Sayers, also Mr and Mrs. Dave Ransier of The Dalles.

## Grain Price Below Loan

The wheat price is staying just below the loan price and there are few farmers who expect it to get much above that figure. Loan price is \$2.04 but a half cent is taken from that for AAA costs. That is equal to \$2.185 in Portland. There is a general opinion, though, that farmers will be able to make it alright if the price stays up to \$2.00 and the crop beats 30 bushels.

## NOTICE

Anyone wanting to move com bines, derricks, or other high equipment or machinery under wires of the Pacific Power & Light company can obtain the aid of men from the company by a simple request. There is danger in handling wires.

R. P. Brisbane, Manager.



SUPERKID... George A. Bochow, Jr., of Mount Vernon, N. Y., 17 months old, can toss around a 10-pound dumbbell. He can ride a scooter, too, as well as hang from a horizontal bar.

## Draft Age Men May Attend School

Men of draft age planning to enter college this fall need have no fear of having their work interrupted before the end of the school year, if they do satisfactory work, reports President A. L. Strand in a brief analysis of provisions of the selective service law as they affect students.

President Strand recently returned from a meeting of the executive committee of the Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities where the matter was discussed in considerable detail. He learned also that the military authorities are planning to increase the size of ROTC units in colleges and depend on them as the primary source of officer material.

Oregon State and many other colleges open this fall before the selective service act becomes effective. Any students enrolled at that time are exempt under the act until the college year is completed—assuming good scholastic work.

## Oregon Has Gas Tax About Average Size

The tax paid on motor vehicle fuel ranges from 4.5 cents to 8.5 cents a gallon, with the national average 6.3 cents, the Oregon State Motor Association reported today. Oregon's tax of 6.5 cents is slightly over the national average and midway between the lowest and highest.

Oregon motorists pay five cents state tax plus a cent and a half federal tax, but the motor association pointed out that in several instances, motorists paid city taxes in addition to state and federal, and in at least one city, Reno, Nevada, there is a county gasoline tax of a cent and a half.

St. Louis, Mo., imposes a city tax of one cent, while Albuquerque, New Mexico, has a city tax of a half cent. The price of regular gasoline in Oregon is about average at 25 cents per gallon.

## SHANIKO

By Mrs. Maude Garrett

Mr and Mrs. Wilburn Frazier of Pacoima, Calif., and Mrs. Anna Pitgen and grand children of San Francisco were Thursday and Friday visitors at the home of Mrs. Maude Garrett.

W. J. Crozier of Everett, Wn., is the house guest of his daughter, Mrs. Maude Garrett.

Mrs. Amanda Fine and Walter Young are working for the Muddy ranch near Prineville.

Frank Harris returned to his work at Antelope after a sick spell.

Al McKinley was taken to The Dalles Saturday for medical attention and is much better now. William Hanks spent the week end in Portland returning Monday.

Mr and Mrs. Cannon have rented the Frazier home here in Shaniko while he is working for Lofts & Son on the rock crusher north of town.

Frank Wagner took a truck load of sheep pelts to Portland Monday.

Melvin Baker of The Dalles is now working with the highway crew here.