

Sherman County Journal

Sixtieth Year No. 40

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Official County Paper

These Things We Note

by Giles L. French

Down in Oregon City the publisher of the daily newspaper criticized the centennial celebrants for wearing whiskers and insisting that everyone else do likewise. It started quite a little fuss and some statewide discussion of the propriety of wearing whiskers when preparing for pioneer events.

There is something to be said for the editor's case. A bearded townsman riding in a modern motor car hardly resembles a pioneer, the whiskers are too small a part of the attempted simile. A man in an air conditioned office, bathed, clean clothed, passing upon matters of selling gasoline, refrigerators or electric stoves is a far cry from the pioneer even though his chin be adorned to suit the most strict vigilance committee.

Those who desire to appear as pioneers might well go farther than their beards. A pair of heavy cowhide boots, instead of shined shoes, a linsey woolsey shirt instead of one of the sports variety, a well used pipe instead of a cigarette would do as much to give that pioneer look as a fringe of well trimmed whiskers.

Now and then one is found whose appearance is helped by whiskers. Whether wives would permit them on the family pillow as a steady thing cannot be known but some men's face look better when dressed than when naked.

The Indiana legislature has passed a resolution regarding federal aid to states which says: "We have taken a good look at federal dollars and find that they all lose weight on their journey to Washington and back."

The item that shows the greatest inflation is the cost of government. Wheat is high and beef is soaring and the price of machinery is out of sight, but the cost of government beats them all.

Domestic animals like to stand in the shade these hot days and switch lazily at the flies. Presumably they could get along without the flies and just stand in the shade. Horses have been liberated from harvest by the motor and like other things without an excuse for being there's not many left, so don't envy the horse too much.

Man likes to recline in the shade on hot days, too, and snoozing through a summers day is sort of a stock theme of poets and essayists. Others do it and poets talk about it.

Making a living is easier in summer because one can do without shelter and heat and not eat much. If man could forget about the coming winter he could spend the summers with less activity and get more time for fishing.

The weather man can sure dish out a small rain real quick like this summer. A few white clouds at night and there's as like as not some wet grain by morning; a little cloud that would blow away another year weeps all over the wheat fields.

Such actions by the weather man keep the farmers on their toes, that is, the ones who are cutting. The others just worry. When the weather is so touchy there is no trouble about starting early in the morning or keeping at it until the sun is gone at night. It may be the very last day.

A twelve hour harvest day, with time out for some eating isn't too much these days when nearly everyone works sitting down. Driving a hundred miles in a truck is hardly backbreaking work although a part of one's anatomy might become overly acquainted with the seat. It's not like dragging a Jackson fork or sewing and bucking some 140-pound sacks from five until 9, which were a couple of jobs that were held to require the acme in masculinity some 30 years ago.

Fire Destroys Fridley Wheat After Lightning

Destruction of 160 acres of standing wheat occurred on the Fridley place east of Emigrant Springs Tuesday evening when lightning struck immediately in front of a truck driven by Dewey Thomas and ignited the grain.

Although neighbors from an area several miles across came to aid in putting out the fire it was not controlled until it had reached the summer fallow east of the wheat field and north of the Chester Coats place.

A part of the field was saved by plowing so to confine it to the east and south thus saving some of the north part of the field. It was one of the best parts of the Kenneth Fridley crop and was estimated to make 40 bushels to the acre.

The fire occurred about 6:30 in the evening during a heavy lightning storm which brought rain to the area north of the Fridley place but did little to aid in putting out the fire.

Dewey Thomas was not injured by the lightning which came so close to him.

Hood River Music Festival Attracts

Keen interest of Timberline visitors in the Music Festival brochures placed at the resort hotel soon exhausted the supply at hand, and a request for six hundred additional copies was made. They were delivered, "with a bang." A packet containing the Music Festival publicity was dropped from a plane, piloted by Mel Lingren of Hood River.

Earl Swanson assistant manager of Timberline, reported that more than three thousand spectators stationed themselves on the mountain side to watch the delivery of the brochures, following announcement of their pending arrival. At exchange of signals the packet, replete with red wrap and streamers to facilitate location, was dropped and hit the target accurately. Mr. Swanson reported the box so well wrapped arrived in excellent condition in fact, was so well wrapped three men struggled to unwrap it.

Crop Insurance Plan Held Safer

Merle Cummings and Ross Dimmick were here Tuesday on behalf of the crop insurance program which will start soon and end in September. The plan has been changed from complete insurance to a program that will return cost of production in any year in which a crop is lost. Cost is lower than at any time. Mr. Dimmick is from Washington D. C. and working in the northwest.

Pageant Professional

A mammoth historical pageant with a cast of more than 450 actors will depict the history of this area as the central attraction of the Ft. Dalles Centennial Days celebration in The Dalles August 26 to 29.

Odd contrasts between the old and new will feature the elaborate program. Modern athletic events and other forms of entertainment will be offered in addition to the historical pageant with its costumes of another era and re-enactment of pioneer scenes.

One of the devices used to help finance the celebration is the circulation of wooden nickels. The rectangular wooden pieces of currency are being purchased by business houses and issued to customers in change.

Redeemable at local banks, the nickels are valid currency until noon of August 28. Profit from the stunt will depend on how many "coins" are kept as souvenirs or otherwise unredeemed. The Dalles post No. 19 of the American Legion is sponsor of the Centennial Days which grew out of the former Ft. Dalles Frolics. This year's celebration is one of several commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Oregon Country's admission as a territory of the United States.

Oregon Wheat Commission



The Oregon Wheat Commission posed for a picture during William J. Enschede, Hillsboro; its May meeting in Pendleton. Members are (left to right) Jens Terjeson, Pendleton, chairman; E. J. Bell, Pendleton, administrator; Marion T. Weatherford, Arlington, vice-chairman; and Ralph McEwen, Jr., Haines.

About the County

Mr and Mrs Harve Cutts and daughter, Joann, of Albany spent the week end here visiting her parents, Mr and Mrs Jerry Coyle.

Mrs Dean Reynolds and Mrs Gene Reynolds were business visitors in The Dalles Friday. Mr and Mrs Willis Brittain and children of Tygh Valley visited Mr and Mrs Frank Bayer Friday. The children remained here to spend a week with their uncle and aunt, the Bayers.

Mr and Mrs Jerry Coyle had as dinner guests Sunday Mr and Mrs Harve Cutts and daughter of Albany, Mr and Mrs Ivan Hlag and family, Mrs Alton Coyle and sons and Verria June Coyle and Ed Fritts.

Rufus experienced quite a rain during the thunder storm Saturday night. The rain was more in local spots, as out at Klondike they said there was not enough rain to settle the dust.

A bolt of lightning was seen to strike over in Gilliam county Saturday night causing a fire to spring up. From what could be seen from the Sherman county side, it burned some grass land on the Bartlemay ranch.

Visiting here for several days, were Mrs Clara White and daughter Virginia at the home of her aunt, Mrs Elizabeth Kuypers. The Whites are from Portland and while here they were also overnight guests of Mr and Mrs Charles Kuypers, to view the activity of harvesting.

Harvest is rolling into its third week of hustling bustling. With some of the machinery cutting fifty acres and more a day, quite a few of the farmers expect to see their operations wind up this week. Several different times including Monday evening, the electricity was off at Rufus elevator. This caused quite a pile up of trucks that had come in to be unloaded. But on the whole it has been a pretty good harvest, the weather not too bad, and the yield beyond expectations. A fire caused by the machinery broke out on the west side of Vernon Miller's field last Friday but it was quickly brought under control and just a small amount of stubble and grass burned. The wind was in the right direction to help the men otherwise the entire field could have gone up in smoke.

Mr and Mrs Bob Clarke of Portland were weekend guests of Mr and Mrs George Van Gaasbeck at Blaylock. They came especially to get their son who was visiting relatives there. Monday they came to Rufus to spend a few days with Mrs Clarke's parents, Mr and Mrs Glen Thompson.

L. L. Bell has a pick-up truck and he is re-learning to drive and the girls are getting used to the feel of the wheel.

The car that Mr Bell is discarding for the pick-up has had one of the longest lives of any known in these parts. A Maxwell in the early days, when its motor became senile and weak it was removed and a tongue substituted. Horses brought the Maxwell to town. Many changes have been made in the tonneau since that time and it now resembles a hack as much as an early day Maxwell, but it still rolls on rubber.

Mr. Bell bought his last car in 1917 and has had it ever since. The agricultural depression of 1921 adversely affected his finances and made the job of paying for his then new ranch in Nigger Hollow a long job. He bought his new pick-up with his own money without advice or consent of banker, mortgage company or federal government.

A car carrying four California people did not make the turn near the Wilde garage north of Wasco Wednesday about noon with the result that three of them were hospitalized in The Dalles, having been taken there by the VFW ambulance. Most seriously injured was Mrs Julius Hirsch who has internal injuries and possibly a broken neck. Mr Hirsch who has broken ribs. The driver, Peter Jauch has minor injuries and his wife escaped with slight cuts.

about folks you do know or would enjoy knowing.

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Wheat Estimate Appears Low As Big Yields Come

Grain continues to come into the elevators in surprising quantities and they fill up within a few days time unless provision is made to ship out to tidewater storage points or removal to local houses.

Wheat from the Sherman cooperative Grain Growers is being shipped to Portland and it is expected that a fifth of the crop will have to be moved in that manner.

The Moro Grain Growers are blowing wheat into flat houses to keep the elevators open at Hay Canyon and Moro. At Grass Valley the harvest is not far enough along to make removal of grain from elevators necessary.

A few returns of less than 30 bushels per acre have been made but there are many more reports of 40 bushels or more than of those below 30, indicating that the average will be above 30 bushels and bring in a crop in excess of 4,000,000 to the county. That is, barring hail or other disaster.

Early reports from Grass Valley the of 40 bushel crops although threshing is of winter wheat so far.

Well authenticated yields in excess of 50 bushels are known but they are usually of small pieces. Entire fields are doing better than 45 and many will beat 40. An average of 30 bushels will give the county 3,840,000 bushels and should the average be 35 bushels there will be 4,500,000 of grain in warehouses and elevators when harvest ends.

Electricity Off

Electricity was off for about three hours Tuesday night when lightning struck the pole at the Harold Ginn corner and burned it off near the transformer. The stoppage affected the entire Sherman county section which goes as far as Heppner.

The pole at this corner has been most unfortunate for two years and seven transformers have been destroyed there. The company has tried many measures to prevent so much damage but so far without avail.

A new ground, using salt, is now being tried. The pole is on the main line from Dufur to Erskine and carries transform- era because current is taken from there to serve Ginn and Frank Says.

Current was again off Thursday morning briefly because of a thrown switch at the White River plant.

Total Valuation Drops As Utility Value Lowers

Valuation of property in Sherman county increased by \$46,250 according to assessor's figures recently compiled by Bill E. Todd. This increase, however, was less than was the drop in utility valuations made by the state tax commission with the result that total valuation of the county is \$9,760,581.82 instead of \$9,859,476 as it was last year.

A slightly smaller number of acres are assessable in Sherman county this year than last, there being 268,365.94 acres of tillable land whereas there was 269,572.94 last year. Someplace 1207 acres have been lost to local assessment, probably gone to state or federal government.

Valuation of tilled land is up to \$21.23 from \$21.15 so the loss in valuation is but \$1839. Non-tillable land dropped to an even \$1.50 per acre instead of \$1.51 as it was before and there is 105.72 acres less and \$230 in valuation.

Improvements on unplatted lands, which means outside of towns, is \$515,890, a drop from \$537,800 of last year. Improvements on platted lands, in towns, are valued at \$307,660 instead of \$285,110 which would indicate that such improvements as have been made have been in the towns.

City lots are up a few dollars but are only assessed at \$53,080.

These figures make the total real property valuation \$6,869,030 or \$570 less than for 1947-48.

Personal property is valued higher being \$1,213,670 instead of \$1,165,870. There is an item of \$5100 for improvements on U. S. Land. Machinery and equipment is down to \$28,330 from \$52,020. Merchandise is now valued at \$109,420 instead of \$99,580 and farming equipment has gone to \$588,020 from \$519,460 reflecting the purchase of much new equipment. Equipment in commercial use is up to \$41,720 from \$25,330 indicating some change over from machinery and equipment items.

There are 615 horses worth \$26.26 each, 8663 cattle worth \$16.56 and 560 sheep at \$4.78, 1293 hogs at \$11.73 and 3721 poultry valued at 95 cents. All figures as of the first of the year. Personal tax valuations are made by the owners.

The Pacific Power & Light company is valued at \$630 per mile for the lines. The Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company is valued at \$94.50 per mile and a \$127,197 total.

Valuation put on the main line of the Union Pacific with yard and side track is \$880,316.64 slightly lower than last year. Value of the branch line is \$417,565.60 a drop from \$557,020 last year.

Sherman county has only \$216,050 in tax exempt property according to compilation that must be made by the assessor for the state tax commission. Of this the federal government has the most or \$79,170 with the county having the major part of the remainder or \$37,750.

Tax levies for all districts in the county will be out within a short time, reports Mr. Todd.

Grass Fire Draws Rufus Neighbors

Just as the harvester was cutting the first round in Leland Medler's field, a fire was set by some of the machinery last Tuesday morning. It was set in the right away, the wind was right to keep it out of the wheat field, but the fire burned into the grass burning as far as the road south of George Fox's place. It burned within fifty yards of the Fox house on the west side. Quick work of the neighbor saved many acres from burning but not before approximately 160 acres of grass land had burned.

Fence posts were burned and damaged as well as some of the telephone poles. It was the grass that was hoed away from the REA poles last spring that saved era because current is taken from there to serve Ginn and Frank Says.

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