

These Things We Note

by Giles L. French

Most people like to talk about their operations and their trips—and most other people are bored at hearing about either.

However, at the risk of boring readers, here goes some observations about a trip and about California, a state of which as much has been written as any other. And it deserves it, too, both good and bad.

The road was slick. Three cars were off, one at the top of Cow canyon, a new car around which an elderly man and a boy were watching, no damage apparent but the job of getting it back on a four foot bank apparently appalled the passengers.

Between Madras and Redmond two California drivers had slid off the road, one to go through a fence into a field on its side and the other to land in the borrow pit bottom side up. It wasn't the kind of road for making time, 25 to 30 miles was enough and one could slide easily enough at that speed.

California sun shone at the border—for 20 miles, then the dark of low clouds settled in and have so remained ever since. Rain below Los Angeles makes the natives very happy and it has given them moisture enough to be almost as much as last year—when there was a drought. This area has had less rain than Sherman county and how they're going to irrigate on it is a question not yet answered.

A San Diego congressman says he is going to introduce a bill to investigate the possibility of bringing Columbia river water to southern California. Boy, they could use it.

Dust fills the creek beds in the San Joaquin valley and bridges have no purpose other than decoration.

California has fine highways and very excellent driving conditions. Lots of the roads are four lane, which makes for easy passing and easy driving. The speed limit is 55 miles and few exceed it. Speed cops appear to pick up offenders often enough and most driving is done at moderate speeds.

Even in the hyper-thyroid belt (Los Angeles) it isn't too bad although the natives do get from one stop light to another as fast as possible. The wait seems more enjoyable than reasonable speed between stops.

Papers in California are disturbed over the passing of Proposition No. 4, which is apparently something like Oregon's pension scheme. Lack of constitutionality will probably make the Oregon law inoperative but in California it will go into effect and cost between \$50 million (proponents) and \$225 million (opponents).

They talk about putting on a state ad valorem tax on property, raising the sales tax and other measures to get the money. At present the state does not have the right to levy a property tax. In Oregon the move is starting to take the state out of the property tax business but with no effect yet.

Compared to Sherman county California is a poor state as perhaps nearly every other place is. Many cities are fringed with acres of shacks where sad looking people live, gathering around their dilapidated cars probably without jobs, money or hope. Much of the state is agriculturally poor because of the drought of last year. Not much of it has had rain so far this fall. Cotton was a good crop but pastures are poor, and once cultivated fields are barren and brown. It will really be tragic if it doesn't rain this winter and next spring—and rain much more than half or three-quarters of an inch that fell on the southern section the 22nd.

Two million people might be without income. So you see why the full flowing Columbia river water seems so enticing to the parched southerners.

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Rescue Inuueed When Car Upsets

When A. W. McLeod went into the ditch at Wasco after hitting the pickup truck of Clem Welk of Wasco, he set a train of events in motion. Vince Clapp, operator of the Wasco Coffe shop ran to the assistance of McLeod, sprained his ankle, while McLeod crawled out of the upturned car without injury.

Wasco police said McLeod struck the pickup truck as it was making a turn onto the highway. The impact forced McLeod's car out of control and it landed on its top in a seven-foot ditch.

The accident happened Monday night.

Asa Eslinger is spending the next month with his son, Ernest Eslinger at the Moro hotel.

Long Distance Call Pleases

When a long distance phone call from Alaska came to Mrs. Annie Williams, just before Christmas, she was pleased for it was a Christmas present from her son, Donald who is in Valdez. At first the voices were not plain, as the greater part of the distance was by short wave radio, but after a half hour improved to such an extent that she could hear Don as he was very close by. He told her that he would not come out this year, that he was well and kept quite busy.

Last year "Willie" tried to telephone his mother at Christmas time but weather conditions were such that the radio set did not work.

Swimming Hole Now Is Skating Pond

With freezing weather the last few days has turned the old swimming hole into a skating pond in the Moro section. With temperatures at 6 above, a thick coating of ice has formed on the pools of water on the old Barnum place.

Except for the slight covering of snow the surface presented for the blades was excellent and quite a number of visitors have been reported.

With the aid of a bonfire oldsters as well as youngsters have tried their luck. Several of the folks who have not had skates on their feet for several years find their ankles do not behave very well on the blades.

But it's lots of fun just the same.

VEW AND AUXILIARY HOLD CHRISTMAS PARTY

The V. F. W. Auxiliary held its last December meeting at the VFW hall Monday, Dec. 20, with Beatrice Howell, president, presiding and eight members present. Mrs. Clara Rolfe and Mrs. Florence Rittner were initiated into the auxiliary. Plans were completed for the pie social to be held at the VFW hall January 15th.

After the meeting the auxiliary and VFW members held their Christmas party.

NOTICE

The next Sherman county luncheon group will meet as usual at the Portland hotel on January 12, 1949 at 12 o'clock.

As a service project the ladies are knitting and crocheting afghans for hospitalized service men at Barnes hospital, where they are very much needed.

Many are doing these in 8 in. squares at home as well as during the delightful visiting hours.

These opportunities to meet with old friends are particularly enjoyable as we realize more and more the value of true and tried friendship.

All present and ex-presidents of 1040-ES, declaration of estimated tax for the calendar year 1948, or the preparation and filing of their income tax returns for the calendar year 1948 in lieu thereof, according to Hugh E. Earle, collector of internal revenue.

Other taxpayers will be assisted later. This is the only stop to be made in Sherman county.

Come and bring your guests. Esta Powell, president.

Santa Claus in the person of Leslie Edwards was a jolly fellow and brought squeals of delight from the little folks and smiles of approval from the elders at the Christmas eve party held at the John DeMoss home. Among those present were Curly DeMoss and family, Tommy and Arlene DeMoss, Wilma Edwards and others.

At the dinner were George DeMoss, and children, Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Alberty and daughter, Don DeMoss and Wilma Edwards.

Mrs. Florence Martin went to Eugene for Christmas to be with her son, George and his wife. She returned Sunday.

Mrs. Lorena Eaves and daughter spent Christmas at the Everett Hasting home in Vancouver. Mrs. Hasting suffered a broken back from a fall and is now in a cast.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kuypers' farm home was the gathering place for relatives for a big Christmas dinner. From The Dalles came Mr. and Mrs. Willard Leff and Mrs. Margaret Leff. From Portland came Mrs. Clara White and son, Robert, and daughter, Miss Virginia White, and from Rufus was Mrs. Elizabeth Kuypers. Mrs. Margaret Leff spent Saturday night with Mrs. Kuypers. Also guests who remained with Mrs. Kuypers during the vacation period was her niece, Mrs. Clara White and son, Robert, who is a student at the University of Washington, and her daughter, Miss Virginia White, who is a senior at Lewis and Clark college.

Vernon Miller made a business trip to Portland Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Reid and son Gary, spent Christmas with Mrs. Reid's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Riley, in Corvallis.

Rev. and Mrs. Rice and family, and Mr. and Mrs. John Mathison motored to the country home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Engles and family where they all enjoyed Christmas dinner together.

Lloyd Meyers who is in the navy has been visiting relatives in Rufus and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Link Meyers in Wasco.

Overnight guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Yocum were Mr. and Mrs. Miles Barager of Stanfield. Christmas day all of them were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. George Jensen and family in The Dalles.

Robert Davis was a Monday dinner guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Yocum.

Mr. and Mrs. Walt Morris entertained at their children at dinner Christmas day. Those who live in the community were present, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Meyers, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Morris and sons, and from Arlington



Happy New Year

Outstand'g News Of Past Year Presented

(Continued from last week)
Jul 2—Richard O'Meara takes over Ed's place. Duane Eakins wins grand championship at the Wheat League stock show in The Dalles.

July 9—Sherman county 4-H clubbers bring back many prizes from stock show. Pasture fire burns near Rufus.

July 16—Flood damage at Rufus found great. Farmers visit experiment station on field day.

July 23—First wheat returns are 40 bushels per acre. 4-H boys entertain with beef barbecue.

July 30—Wasco well indicates heavy flow. Crop still yielding high.

Aug. 6—Local tax valuation drops as utilities value comes down. Kenneth Friday loses some of crop in fire.

Aug. 13—Elevators filling up rapidly as wheat pours in. Fair program made up by board.

Aug. 20—Young men begin registering with sheriff. Wheat program started.

Aug. 27—Sherman county wheat crop estimates at 4,500,000 bushels. Tax millages up because of school costs.

Sept. 3—Seven races daily due during fair. Storage conditions tight.

Sept. 10—Sherman county club breakfasts in park. New school board elects Thompson and Henrichs.

Sept. 17—T. M. Rolfe buried at Grass Valley. Roger Ball wins teh championship at state fair.

Sept. 24—Fair contests close as boys show calves. Race program exciting.

Oct. 1—Rain comes to make the seeding safe. Health talked at Oct. 8—Moro beats Papooses. Oveson accepts Pendleton research Job. Sherman county boys win at Portland stock show.

Oct. 15—Moro passes ordinances for bond issue. Tax notices out.

Oct. 22—Ralph Brisbane retires. Ramon Kent to talk on conservation.

Oct. 29—Moro beats Condon. Doug McKay visits county.

To be continued.

Shaniko Notes

Mike Moran slipped on the ice and hurt his ankles Wednesday, the 22nd and was taken to Madras for doctor's attention after which he was taken on to Bend where he had a cast put on as he had a bad break.

Pat Charles of Antelope is staying at t eh home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Cunnison. They all went to Madras to attend the funeral of Arnold Larsen of that city who died in a accident on the railroad.

Miss Margaret Olson sent the Christmas here with Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Rees, coming from Fairview.

Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Dupree and family were the guests of Mrs. Maggie Smith, Mrs. Dupree's mother, at Antelope.

Mrs. Minnie Bleakney and Mrs. Myrtle McLennon are spending the holidays in The Dalles with relatives.

Bishop Barton of Bend was a visitor at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Rees. The bishop is helping to get the church organized here for Rev. Dixon to take over. Rev. Dixon is preaching at Prineville and holding services at Madras and other localities. He will be here regular on the second Sunday of the month at the school house at 5:30 p. m.

James Philbin, Bill and Bob Garrett were visitors Sunday at Maupin bringing the new electric range for the Philfers. They also motored to Grass Valley Sunday evening.

The highway crew were very busy over the weekend trying to keep the roads passable for Sunday travel. The snow was drifting so much and they were also busy removing motorists from the ditch.

We have containers for collecting March of Dimes money at the postoffice. Olsen's store, the Shell station and the hotel. All are urged to help in this fight against a dread disease.

Mrs. Maude Gannett, postmaster is chairman for the Shaniko district.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Carrigan and daughter, Mrs. W. D. Hinkle motored to Madras Monday and Mrs. Carrigan had a date with the dentist.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank those who helped us in our hour of bereavement, the death and loss of our mother.

THE RUGGES FAMILY