

# Sherman County Journal

Sixty-First Year No. 12

Moro, Oregon, Friday, January 21, 1949

Official County Paper

## These Things We Note

by Giles L. French

That Willamette valleyites are making little or no comment on the unusual severity of eastern Oregon weather. In fact towns near the foot of the Cascades are about as cold as eastern Oregon and Salem residents are boasting of thermometers that approach zero. We do take pride in extremes. And those who live in equable climates like to get out of that class now and then. We only relate our exceptional experiences, giving precedence to the highs and lows of our experience, saying little about the daily job, the ordinary food, the bland existence of the usual and ordinary.

The slot machine is getting the bum's rush in Portland and may in all Multnomah county if some one will just tell Sheriff Elliot that some do exist outside the city of Portland. It is reported that they are strangely absent from Salem clubs, including the private ones.

Well, as has been said before, there are laws against them, the supreme court has upheld the laws, the people have voted them out and they existed until a lone woman advanced to public office cleaned them out. Maybe, as some say, the clean-up won't last, but maybe it will.

A lot of reforms have to be started by the women, who like to clean house and officials who have been saying that there is no way to control them are saying little.

Ralph Watson, one-time political reporter for the Oregon Journal, who was retired a year ago because he had reached the age of 65, is back on the job again writing for a group of dailies throughout the state. And his "stuff" rolls along with the ease that old time reporters strove to accomplish. Nowadays the limitations of space, the haste of make-up and the jittery times make for writing that jerks instead of flows.

A lot of men who have been kicked out of their employment because some writer of rules held that 65 was an end of usefulness are working again. A college in California hires all of the retired law professors it can get—and has a fine school. Retired OSC professors are filling important jobs capably in other institutions and from other places there are elders carrying on.

This gives weight to the argument that age is a poor indicator of ability and worth and while the future of a man 65 must of necessity be short that is no indication that he cannot work for a time.

A way of getting out of the penitentiary not before discovered has been found by a resourceful Oregon State Penitentiary inmate, or former inmate. He needed an operation and refused to have it done inside the walls. So they turned him loose. That, of course, was the only consideration.

California who has boasted that their children have never seen snow can find something else to boast about. No damage, we are sure, has been done the children.

There is a striking lack of imagination among politicians. Look at the way they hang onto the word "deal". We had the new deal, and the Tru deal and an Oregon man is boasting of a straightforward deal. All probably came from the square deal but so far have not approached that philosophy.

Ice in the Columbia is nothing new and old timers may be found who will say that it used to be a yearly occurrence. But it is not likely that there has been a permanent change in the weather although there may be a cycle that governs such things. Yet, it could be safer to believe that the weather is what it is and if there is a cycle it is strictly accidental and has no bearing on the future.

It could also apply to our moisture conditions which would not mean that for each of our dry

## Legislative News Of 45th Session

By Giles L. French

Freezing weather seems to have had an effect on legislative proposals. There is talk about frozen funds and some of the self styled tribunes of the people are willing yet, even anxious, to warm up such funds. All in the public interest, be it known.

The definition excludes the property tax payer from the classification of public.

Actually there are no frozen funds. There is money in both the excise and income tax funds. It can be taken out and spent by a vote of the people by a simple vote of a tax levy over and above the six percent limitation. The procedure is exactly the same as that used in school districts, cities and counties.

The state could spend all the so-called surplus, past and future by a vote of the people over the six percent limitation. That would be orderly and time-honored solution to the financial problem of the state. The appropriation might have to be \$60,000,000 and could be as little as \$25,000,000 depending on how many requests were denied by the legislature.

Already there are some who would take permanently away from the people their control over the income and excise funds by placing them in the general fund where they would be available for appropriation by the legislature. That would mean, of course, that the property tax payer would be required to pay a state tax on top of his already huge and climbing county and city and school district taxes.

Those who helped enact the income tax law back in 1931 say that the only way it could have been passed was by making it a property offset tax. The supreme court has upheld it as a property offset tax. If it is changed (and the same generally applies to the corporation excise tax) property owners will be subject to a tax for state purposes within a year or so.

The state of Oregon has grown some 49 percent in population since 1940, has increased its valuation some \$300,000,000 or about 33 percent and because of inflation and rather liberal spending has increased its expenditures many fold. Now there are enough requests to use up every cent of money in the excise and income tax funds and leave the state's treasury bare for the days ahead which may not be so economically bright as they have been in the recent past.

The house has in it a bunch of new men, many of them young, and who generally appear to be good legislative caliber. Of course, the legislative processes are new to them and it will take some time for them to become accomplished legislators but first impressions are good. Eastern Oregon has almost a new delegation in the house.

The same condition does not prevail in the senate. Losses there were serious. No legislative body can lose men like clear thinking and speaking Chessman, faithful and effective Fatland, dependable Lee Paterson, popular Doug McKay, tough minded Zurcher without having to undergo a rebuilding process. Men like them come from a combination of ability and experience.

It may sound odd in eastern Oregon but the withholding tax has many friends about the state. Even fruit growers, hop growers and potato growers like it and some of them have made up returns for two and three cents, too. A bill is in to repeal it, another to amend it by making the minimum amount of wages on which collection would be made \$25.00. That would make the minimum tax to be paid by the producer 25 cents. Whether that can be done or not is not known.

Neither is it known how much the tax will bring in to the state, net—about ten million has been collected but how much of this will be used as pre-paid income tax will not be known until after April 15 when income taxes must be paid. Officials don't figure on much over a million net, but have no basis on which to estimate eventual returns.

Mrs. R. J. Baker came up from The Dalles Wednesday to spend a few days here with Mr. Baker who spent several weeks here on business. They left Saturday for their home in The Dalles.

Likely it will be dry some times and wet sometimes

## Iron Lung Benefit Dance Saturday

A benefit dance by the 20-30 club of The Dalles, is being held at Grass Valley, January 22, with the proceeds going to the Iron Lung fund of the organization, according to Jack Lewis, The Dalles, who made preliminary work here Monday.

The Iron Lung at The Dalles is now at Yakima, where forty cases of infantile paralysis are confronting authorities there. In case of need in this locality, the Iron Lung can be flown back from Yakima at an hour's notice.

Due to the cooperation of the surrounding areas in contributing needed equipment, the fatalities have been kept down, but the need for additional equipment is stressed.

The Columbians will furnish the music.

## Day and Night Power Curb Need

An emergency 15 to 20 percent cut in use of electricity to help conserve the dwindling supply resulting from reduced river flow is being requested of all power users throughout the Pacific Northwest, effective at once according to Lawrence Kirby, local manager for the Pacific Power & Light company.

He appealed to all customers of the company to join immediately in the concerted power-saving drive, which is being carried on by all power agencies, public, private and federal, serving the whole shortage area.

The saving is vitally needed, he declared, to carry the region through the present critical shortage period without danger to essential services or threat to industrial employment.

The new conservation drive became necessary because the continued cold wave blanketing the Columbia river valley is making the power situation steadily worse. Water to turn the generators at the region's hydro plants is falling to dangerously low levels while the sub-freezing weather is keeping power loads high, explained Corey.

It was emphasized that the savings must be made throughout the entire region and by every customer to meet the emergency.

## About the County

### Grass Valley Folks Entertain

Miss Marie von Borstel, a student at St. Mary's academy in The Dalles spent the weekend here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Martin.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Martin entertained friends at a party Friday evening, January 7, and those present were Mr. and Mrs. Donald von Borstel, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. John Reckman, Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Esslinger and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Perrigo. The evening was spent playing pinocle with high scores held by Mrs. Reynolds and Mr. Perrigo and low scores by Mrs. Reckman and Mr. Esslinger. Refreshment were served at the close of the party by the hostess.

Kenneth Crews and Frank Ketter were business visitors in The Dalles Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Norris Gilkison were Sunday dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Martin.

Mr. and Mrs. Olan Stark and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Owens and daughter Carol Ann, were dinner guests Sunday at the home of Mrs. W. D. Barnett. Mr. and Mrs. Willard Barnett and son, Keith called in the evening.

The Ladies Social service club met at the home of Mrs. T. M. Rolfe Thursday afternoon with eight present. Refreshments were served at the close of the meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Alley were in The Dalles Thursday where Mrs. Alley received medical attention.

Mrs. R. J. Baker came up from The Dalles Wednesday to spend a few days here with Mr. Baker who spent several weeks here on business. They left Saturday for their home in The Dalles.

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## CLEAN-UP TIME IN THE ARMY



After target practice on the firing range, these soldiers clean their M1 rifles thoroughly before returning to their barracks. All U. S. Army recruits learn the nomenclature of the M1, as well as care and maintenance of the "world's most rifle."

## Organization Meeting Sherman County Club Held Tuesday

The organizational meeting of the Republican Precinct committee men and committee women of Sherman county was held at the court house Tuesday afternoon, January 11th and the following officers were elected to serve for the next two years.

Mrs. Howard Conlee, chairman, and E. D. McKee, vice-chairman; Giles French was named as secretary and Carl Metzler as treasurer. Alternates are Giles French and Mrs. Collis P. Moore.

The Congressional committee man and committee woman are Carl Metzler and Mrs. Ernest Shull and the five district nominating committee members will be Ed McKee, Mrs. B. Estelle Halley of Wasco, A. A. Dunley and Mrs. Elizabeth Hartley of Grass Valley and Mrs. Collis P. Moore of Moro.

### MORO I. O. O. F. INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

The following officers were installed for the Moro lodge of the I. O. O. F. on January 18.

Leo Watkins as Noble Grand; Marvin Howell, vice-Grand; John DeMos, secretary and C. M. Mesinger, treasurer.

## Slippery Highway Cause of Auto Crash

### Wasco Resident Taken by Death

Slippery icy spots on the highway between Biggs junction and Wasco, caused Mr. and Mrs. John T. Johnson to skid off the road last Friday night. Mr. Johnson received facial cuts, but not of a serious nature.

The couple were taken to the Mid-Columbia hospital where an examination disclosed that their injuries were not serious.

## John Day River Is Sheet of Ice

By Mrs. George L. Fox  
Just a sheet of ice is what the John Day river is at present. With this cold spell going into its fifth week, it's no wonder. The thermometers have gone to zero, and the frost has gone farther and farther in the ground until a good many have frozen water pipe lines leading from their cisterns. This gives us a taste of what a few modern conveniences means when we have buckets of water with a dipper in them on the side boards. It makes one stop and think just what our forefathers went through with to modernize this old world.

The west wind that sprang up Friday is slowly drawing the frost from the ground. Some say eighteen inches wouldn't be stretching the depth of the frost in the earth. The farmers are holding their breath to see yet whether the wheat will have to be reseeded.

The luncheon was served buffet style when Mrs. Robert Byrd and Mrs. Frank Smith entertained the Home Economics club at the Byrd home Thursday afternoon. Mrs. Smith had prepared hand decorated napkins to match the dish-

es used.

Mrs. Richie Dingle, the new H. E. chairman, opened the business meeting. Roll call was answered by members telling their New Year's resolution. The year books and projects for the different

It was also suggested that the committee report to the Sherman county court on February 2, following the report to the club.

The next meeting will be for the discussion of the formation of a soil conservation district. Also the club is to attend a special of Commerce on January 31, a meeting with The Dalles Chamber evening session at The Dalles hotel.

### PLAN TO TRY SALT AIR

Mr. and Mrs. John DeMos left for Taft, Oregon, Wednesday to see if the ocean breezes would benefit Mrs. DeMos's sinus trouble. John E. (Curly) DeMos will have charge of the store at De Moss Springs in their absence.

## Ambulance Makes Two Calls Grass Valley

### NEW FACES AT LOCAL BANK

The Sherman County ambulance made two trips to The Dalles Tuesday. Around 9:30 a. m. a call was made from Grass Valley where James Brown suffered a heart attack. And during the afternoon, at 1:30 a call came for the ambulance from the Wilbur Haggerty farm, where the hired man had suffered a stroke, and had lain in the cold until his hands and feet were frozen, according to local report.

The county has a general slope from the Columbia to the southern boundary, from 120 feet above sea level to 3000. The towns, most of them in canyons, indicate the elevation: Wasco 1271, Moro 1807, Grass Valley

## Palbearers were Edwar Alley, Henry Peters, C. W. Fields, Herman Peters, Roy Schilling, Boyce Blaylock. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Spencer & Libby, The Dalles, with burial in the I. O. O. F. cemetery at Grass Valley.

Out of town relatives and friends attending the funeral were Mr. and Mrs. Bert Brown, Mrs. Lester Brittain, Frank Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Willis Brittain and Mr. and Mrs. Omar Brittain, all from Tygh Valley, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Nahouse of McCoy, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Olds, Willard Olds and Miss Betty Howe of Portland, Fred Walker of Independence, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Walker of Boise, Idaho, Mrs. Ronald Powell of Moro, Mr. and Mrs. Marion Crews of Stevenson, Wash., Mr. and Mrs. August Wassenmiller of Tygh Valley, Mr. and Mrs. V. B. Eakin, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Alley and R. J. Baker of The Dalles and Mr. and Mrs. Warren Morgan of Condon.

There were a few changes noticed last week in personnel at the local bank. Grant Perry of The Dalles was waiting on the window while Bon Christlanson was attending Chief clerk's school in Portland. Mrs. Florence Martin is in Portland for medical attention for a few days.

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## Iver B. Hansen Pioneer Passes

News of the passing of one of Sherman county's pioneers was belatedly sent to the Sherman County Journal. Iver B. Hansen, born Jan. 2, 1880, and died Dec. 25, 1948 at Goldendale, Wash.

At the age of five years he came to Sherman county with his parents, where the family engaged in farming. Following the mother and son lived in Portland and in 1912 came to Goldendale. In January 1927 he was united in marriage to Mrs. Mabel Leuthen. Illness had confined him to his bed for the past two years.

He leaves to mourn his passing his wife, Mable, sister Christena Gano, eight nieces and four nephews.

He was buried in the I.O.O.F. cemetery at Goldendale.

## History Sherman County Presented

By Giles L. French

It is intended to write some notes on the history of Sherman county. These will not be a completed history. Too much research work must be done before that can be accomplished but the general plan may be laid out and some writing done.

The hope is that those people who know most about the history of the county will correct errors that occur in these notes. For much of the county's history there is no place to look for exact information except from the elders who remember it with accuracy which long gone events appear to those who look back at them through years.

The land between the rivers came fortunately through the upheavals of the geological ages that made the history of the mid-Columbia so turbulent. There is, in Sherman county, little evidence of the inland lake the geologists say once filled this part of the state; the formations that make the upper John Day country so interesting to explorers, stop at Clarno.

Certainly this part of the land underwent great change when the Cascades were heaved into their early form and when the volcanos covered the earth with lava.

But when it was all done the part of it all that is now Sherman county was left fairly smooth.

Geologists are not sure about what happened back in the oligocene and miocene times. If there are animal remains they can identify them and better set the time. Here there are none, neither petrified nuts nor leaves that can be identified as native.

Eons and eons of time must have been used by the rivers to cut their deep channels that make the county's borders and probably new inundations of lava filled them time after time before they assumed their present form.

Nearly all of Sherman county is of volcanic formation. It is called Coriba for Columbia River Basalt. Along the northern part of the county there is some Shuttler formation, coming over from Gilliam county but not extending into Wasco. Its soil is lighter than the regular basalt.

Sherman county is one of the northern tier of Oregon counties, bordered on the north by the Columbia river, on the east by the John Day river, on the south by Wasco county and on the west by Deschutes river. All of these rivers run in deep canyons and Buckhollow is also a deep canyon.

The county is therefore a geological and geographical entity as well as being a political entity. It is a natural unit of area. It was neither the steep, canyon filled terrain of Wasco county to the west, which slopes toward the Deschutes river and whose land is cut by many small streams and canyons, nor the multitude of deep canyons that cut Gilliam county on the east. Neither has it the desert land that begins somewhat farther south.

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## EOWL Enlarges Scope of Work

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Eastern Oregon Wheat League at its last annual meeting dissolved its organization and increased its scope of activities to include the entire state of Oregon. In making this move the name of the organization was changed to "Oregon Wheat Growers League." Under this change three new executive committeemen have been selected, two from western Oregon and one from southern Oregon. The major wheat producing counties each have one committeeman on the board.

Paulen Kaseberg of Wasco, president of the Oregon Wheat Growers League had called a meeting of the executive board to be held in Pendleton Friday and Saturday of this week. This meeting is to be devoted to a study of the resolutions and recommendations presented at the last meeting at Condon. The Wheat Growers League has been asked to meet Friday morning with the Oregon Wheat commission.

The Oregon Wheat commission is charged with the duty of carrying on activities in research, education, production and marketing of wheat. The Oregon Wheat Growers League is a commodity organization representing wheat from the producers' standpoint. Its activities are correlated directly with the activities of the commission and are requested for suggestions and recommendations in the development of the activities of the commission.

## Lewis A. Olds Buried Saturday

Lewis A. Olds was born in Yamhill county March 19, 1875 and came to Sherman county with his parents when he was nine years old. They lived on the place where Alfred Kock now lives. He married Ida M. Walker on January 20, 1901, and lived on the place where Willard Rolfe now lives until they moved to the ranch south of Grass Valley where he lived until he retired in 1943 and moved to town where he lived until his death January 12, 1949. He had been ill for ten years of which the last twenty-one months were bedfast.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Ida M. Olds, a daughter, Mrs. Thelma Trimble and a son, Alton Olds all of Grass Valley; six brothers, Charles, Dell and Earl of Grass Valley, Dean Olds of Portland, Frank Olds of Milton, and Willie Olds of Yuba City, California, and two sisters, Mrs. Bertie Brown of Tygh Valley and Mrs. Iva Nahouse of McCoy, Oregon.

Funeral services were held from the Methodist church of Grass Valley Saturday at 1 p. m. with the Rev. W. W. Gearhart of Moro officiating. Mr. and Mrs. Orville Ruggles sang, accompanied by Mrs. Elton Eakin at the piano.

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