

# Sherman County Journal

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Official County Paper

## These Things We Note

by Giles L. French

It seemed almost too bad to have those two colored gentlemen wearing each other when nobody cared about their troubles. What were they fighting about anyway?

Wonder how far that Florida governor will have to go for his fourth wife.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

That girl back in Wisconsin who declared the decision of the jury a pack of lies when her lover was found guilty of murdering her sister evidently intends to stick to her error through thick and thin. Maybe it's human nature to disbelieve truths that hurt the ego. There is no time limit on crime or immorality; what is a sin today was one yesterday and will be tomorrow.

The foreign ministers have ended their Paris stay and gone home to their respective capitals to catch up on their home work. If some one should introduce a diplomat in that company some of the disagreement might be removed and the boys would have to stay home.

The feudal system started when men who lived somewhat removed from groups were insecure. They joined with others and went under the leadership of a big shot of some sort who had them build him a castle and then traded his support to a king or duke for some title and power. The king was the top dog, and power graduated downward to the lowly serf who was bottom dog, who did the fighting and the dying and the working.

Around the castles the traders congregated and cities started bringing on the middle class who loaned money to the nobles and eventually and thereby upset them, releasing the serfs.

Conclusion may be that one becomes a serf when he loses his power of decision, whether he be rich or poor. For 700 years men have been struggling for the right and the power to make their own decisions. Most successful have been Americans, some of whom seem willing to trade it for comfort.

Some governors opposed the matching system that gives their states federal money but most of them were willing to take the cash regardless of what happened.

"Take the cash and let the credit go; Nor heed the music of a distant drum."

Police who caught that 73 year old "love pirate" must have been in a dead heat with Father Time.

The Bend Bulletin surprises the Oregon Journal with the information that Shaniko is the Indian pronunciation of the name of a German settler named August Scherneckau. It even surprises us. It was the mispronunciation of white men who are no better at odd names than their dusky brothers.

August Scherneckau ran a stage station, and eating place suitably equipped with a keg of volatile spirits in the '80s. When the railroad engineers decided to build to Cross Hollows, the geographical name of Scherneckau's location, his name was given to the spot. Probably the railroad went that far because there was water to be had but it didn't go clear to Cross Hollows, just to the plain above the canyons.



END OF THE 500 MILES . . . Weary, happy and cooling off at every pore, racecar driver Bill Holland sits back in the bucket seat of his Blue Crown special to accept congratulations after winning the Indianapolis 500-mile speedway classic on Memorial Day. Seating at Holland on the far side of the car are movie actress Linda Darnell and Harvey Florence, the fire man. Holding the microphone is Wilbur Shaw, speedway president (left). Lou Moore stands behind him.

## Early Day Cattle Brands Marked Herds Before Brand Registration Conceived

Stockmen of the United States have always had brands and marked their stock with them. Cattle are traditionally branded with a hot iron and sheep with a sort of paint. That is, they used to. Now many cattle are too valuable to brand, are seen every day, kept within fences or tattooed in the ear or branded on the horn, being purebreds.

But in the old days calves were branded at the time of the spring round-up and perhaps not seen closely again until sold three or four years later. That was the days of the open range. Brands were some protection against cattle rustlers who stole cattle in those days for stockers. Now there are still cattle rustlers but they steal for meat and after a steer has been dressed in a truck identification is only valuable as a means of incriminating the rustler. It can never bring the steer back to his owner's pasture.

Perhaps the first stockmen with herds of good size in Sherman county was James Fulton who branded his horses and cattle with a JF connected. It was known and used for years. Some time hard to identify from it was the nearly Jesse Eaton brand of JE connected. Eaton had quite a number of cows also.

Thomas Gordon who had his horse ranch headquarters on the Deschutes a few miles above its connection with the Columbia branded with a G and pastured his herds as far as they would wander.

Henry Barnum branded with HB connected when he first started and later used the JT connected with the bar of the J elongated to make the T. It is still used by the family occasionally.

The Floyds had a queer brand. It was called a wagon box, meaning the boxing that went inside the hub of a wagon wheel. It was a circle with three projections to hold it from turning inside the wooden hub. Perhaps a wagon wheel box was actually the first brand used by him.

Don Helm used an anchor, the Donnell's a Z and Jim Jenkins a plain J. Pierson who had stock in the lower Grass Valley country had a JP connected brand but the "handle" on the P did not touch the upright. Pierre Coucherle used a P with the handle touching the upright. So there was a chance for argument there. As the herds ranged close together for those days, Pierson, however, was not here for many years and neither was Coucherle.

Sam Price branded with an H inside a diamond but he used it mostly on horses. He ran the stage station and the company branded its horses with an NWE.

Lewis Davenport had a JD connected and J. B. Dickerson branded with a double J, one being reversed. Tim Baldwin used TB connected.

Nate Eaton was first in the county to use a brand that is popular in many places it being a circle with a dot in the middle and Tom McGraw had an MC, big and bold. George Reeder branded with an R.

Sheepmen, who first in livestock dominance in the county also had registered brands. J. H. (Harvey) Smith branded his sheep with an S bar, the bar running through the center of the S and R & A Smith branded with an OK, the K being inside the O and R & A Smith branded with a bar U. Perhaps they bought

## Wheat Price Expected To Be \$2.00 In Sherman County

The AAA office has not received any official information about the wheat loan price for the 1949 crop although news reports from Washington indicate that the price here will be an even \$2.00.

This is based on the national average price of \$1.96 which would give a price of \$2.15 at Portland and as the costs are 15 cents between here and tide-water the price for grain at Moro would be \$2.00. A price very similar to this has been expected by local grain men because of other prices established earlier.

## Elevator Reaching To 120 Bin Height

The elevator stretches up against the clouds about 11 feet more each day and by Friday morning it is expected to reach its height of 120 feet above the slab. Then the 45 foot headhouse will be erected on top of that.

Work has been progressing according to plan with the day shift making about six feet and the night shift adding another five feet. Slower time at night is due to cold weather which prevents hardening.

After the elevator proper is poured the headhouse will be built by the same slip form process. The scale house will go on anytime and wheat can pour into the structure by July 20th if plans are not upset by unforeseen troubles.

## Veterans Fail To Record Discharges

A spot check of county court houses by the Oregon department of Veterans Affairs this week revealed that an alarming number of war veterans have neglected to record their military discharges as a safeguard in the event of loss of their original papers.

Slightly more than half the estimated World War II veteran population of Multnomah, Clackamas, Columbia, Washington and Yamhill counties have taken advantage of free recording service provided by law, inquiries by the state veterans' agency disclosed.

"State law provides that the counties will make this a free service. Every veteran should take advantage of it, because in the event of loss of his original papers because of fire, theft, mutilation or misplacement, he can always obtain a photostatic copy from his county clerk or recorder for a small fee."

"Our department," Gaarenstroom said, "as well as county and veterans' organization service officers, has been too many instances where a veteran or his next of kin has suffered costly delays in securing compensation, pensions, subsistence and other veterans' benefits due to the fact that the discharge was not recorded and the original papers were missing."

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Herb Maricle who has some cattle on the Deschutes 40 years ago branded with an HE connected that was near looking. The French had several brands, the connected CPF, CFF and RF connected, the R being backward.

There are brands that recur often in brand history and these are the OO with variations, it may be a double O, a pair of it, specks, if connected, or dumbell, but it is a popular brand. Then there is the swastika which is always in use. The pair scissors brand had been in Sherman county for years and is now used by Willard Harper and Del Eakin.

Ob King was an early day stockman, who also bought cattle and butchered them branded with an OK, the K being inside the O and it is still used on the King county?

## Historical Society Affiliates With State Group

Lancaster Pollard, superintendent of the Oregon Historical society, attended the executive meeting of the Sherman County Historical society Monday night and explained to the local group the advantages of affiliation with the state society.

Receipt of the quarterly, fourth oldest historical publication in the nation, and ability to purchase historical publications were major inducements although the advantage of cooperation were given as well. Many of the county or area societies are already affiliated.

The executive committee voted to affiliate with the state society and to incorporate as a non-profit society. It agreed to work with Wasco county and other nearby groups in matters of joint interest but decided to continue under its own power for the present at least.

George Potter and Theodore Johnston reported on the proposed marker to be erected at the John Day crossing saying that sand and gravel were on hand, the site had been leveled and that construction would be done by September.

## Field Man Hired By U.S. National Bank

C. A. Reynolds, manager of The Dalles branch of the United States National bank has announced the appointment of Elmer H. Lierman as field representative for the bank in The Dalles area.

Lierman, a graduate of Oregon State college in agriculture, has done graduate work in rural sociology and agricultural education and for the past eight years has been farm management supervisor for the Farmer's Home administration in various sections of Oregon and Washington.

In his new capacity, according to Reynolds, Mr. Lierman will act as a special agent for the bank on agricultural loans, public relations and farm appraisals.

## BRAND LAW CHANGES FOUND POSSIBLE

Some changes in the administration of the brand law have been made by the Department of Agriculture according to Sheriff Fields.

A transportation certificate will permit a stock owner to move his stock to any point in the state without a brand inspection, unless the stock is in which case the fee will be paid upon delivery. If an owner takes stock to the yards that are sold as feeders no such payment will be exacted.

An effort is being made to bring the administration of the law into acceptance by the stock owners and shippers.

## EAKIN FAMILY PICNICS

The Eakin family held its 9th reunion at Bear Springs Sunday, June 26, with barbecue and a pot luck dinner served at noon followed by a program consisting of a talk by C. E. Beard of The Dalles, two accordion solos by Mrs. Ralph Eakin of Moro, two guitar solos by Ronney Eakin of Dufur, two vocal solos by Miss Bonney Andrews of Parkdale and a vocal solo by Jo Roach of Portland, baseball was played for a while but it was so cold every one left early for their homes.

Among those present were Messrs. and Mesdames, V. B. Eakin and L. D. Eakin of The Dalles, Vernon Eakin and family, Owen Eakin and family, Harold Eakin and family, Millard Eakin and family, Myrl Smith and son, O. N. Ruggles, Dean Reynolds, Wallace May, and Bill Smith and Miss Dorothy Kelley of Grass Valley, Donald Martin and family, Beverly Van Meter, Mrs. Jennie Martin, Mrs. J. C. Nelson and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Eakin and family of Moro, Starr Ruggles and son, Neal of Stayning, Mr. and Mrs. Joyce Dilling, Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Hartzel, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Smith of The Dalles and Mr. and Mrs. Emmeth husband is employed down at Big Eddy.

## Crop Estimated At More Than 2,500,000 bus.

There have been few estimates on the total crop of Sherman county for the coming harvest and such estimates as have been made are either very pessimistic or very optimistic. There are conditions that lead to either conclusion.

There are 129,000 acres in grain this year of which nearly all is wheat, barley and oats not being favored since the price drop. Incidentally there are still 15,000 acres of Crested Wheat grass.

This is the same general acreage that produced 2,500,000 bushels of warehoused wheat in 1947 after one of the most disastrous hail storms of the county's history. That year the Sherman Co-op at Wasco stored 1,250,000 bushels and Moro had 590,000 bushels and Grass Valley 625,000 bushels, the latter two suffering the greatest hail reduction.

Despite prophecies of shorter crops with south and west slopes returning to conditions of the thirties there is reason to believe that the 1949 crop will be better than that of 1947. Wendell Balgiger feels sure that the Moro district will have more grain this year.

It is very evident that the county does not have a crop like that of 1948 when Wasco took 1,800,000 bushels, Moro 1,300,000 and Grass Valley 1,100,000 to say nothing of over half a million bushels in farm storage and smaller elevators. That 4,500,000 bushel crop is not expected.

The average for the county is now 19.2 bushels. The national average is 16.1. An average yield will make 2,476,800 bushels. But the county looks better than that. With continued cold weather and favorable harvest days it seems likely that the total yield will be more than 2,500,000 but perhaps will not reach the 3,000,000 figure.

## Highway Commission Tells of Financing

During the past three years (1946-47-48) the State Highway Commission has been contracting and constructing a three year highway program which has totalled approximately \$52 million in money and which will result in the improvement of some 1,891 miles of roads in the extended motor transportation grid of the state. In comparison with the progress made in other states in the conduct of its highway construction program for this period, Oregon stands in seventh place among the 48 states of the Union.

Of the \$52 million, approximately \$40,300,000 represented federal aid projects, the remaining \$11,700,000 state projects to which no federal money attached. This work constitutes what is called the "first postwar program," as initiated by the 1944 road act of congress, which earmarked \$36 million (\$21 million of federal funds and \$15 million of state funds) for federal aid construction in Oregon during the three year period.

The second postwar federal aid program was authorized and initiated by the congress in June 1948. Under this program, the Highway Commission will have available approximately \$21 million in both state and federal funds for construction work during the coming two years, the program for which was set up, in major part, by the commission at its May meeting.

On June 27 and 28, at a meeting held in Portland, the commission let contracts totalling approximately \$3 million. One of the largest lettings in amount and number of projects in the history of the commission.

## RUFUS NEWS

A new basement has been dug under the Rufus parsonage, and cement for the walls was run last week along with the foundation for another room which will be added on the main house. Tuesday the men plan on running the cement for the basement floor.