

Sherman County Journal

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Official County Paper

These Things We Note

by Giles L. French

Great things often happen with little notice given at the time. In this regard we think it only proper to reassure those Americans who are nervous about foreign affairs; who feel that war may come again.

Luxembourg is on our side. When the great statesmen in the American congress approved the Atlantic pact they pulled the European duchy and all its 1825 soldiers to our potential aid. Be not afraid.

Luxembourg is one of the 12 signatories of the Atlantic pact. It has promised to come to our assistance in case of attack by any foreign foe. Luxembourg, be it known, is approximately the same size as Sherman county, and has about as many people as has Multnomah county. There's iron in the Luxembourg hills. Be assured.

To show our appreciation of this promise of support from Luxembourg, the Atlantic pact gives it as big a vote as ours. Truly it was a great stroke of international business, this military alliance with the grand duchy of Luxembourg. Put away your fears. The country is safe. Luxembourg is with us.

Some boast of being rebels but it is equally valuable to have some rebels against rebellion.

Democracy is a kind of government that gives individuals a chance to say something about the men and laws that govern them. It is effective only if the chance is taken.

A news note says that 83 of Oregon's 36 counties raise seed crops. Most of the counties are adjusting themselves to a diversified agriculture and already getting income from it.

(Incidentally, what ever became of those often boastful souls who were horse shoers, combine drivers and sack sewers?)

The first didn't have to have any distinguishing mark, he smelled it, but he had a leather apron tucked in his belongings some place. Combine drivers, with the aid of two rope lines, could keep 25 to 38 head of horses or mules reasonably even and the grain threshing clean. Sacksewers came into town in July with sack needles in their hats and they were experts of their own job and could sew and buck their half a thousand per day.

Great and lusty men they were, all of them. One could be proud of a job a generation ago. And now there's men and women getting grey who never saw a horse shoer, a combine driver or a sack sewer.

The mortality of experts is great.

Moran, the man who listened most often while Mack drawled, "Why bring that up?" is dead and we hope the idea doesn't die, too. There are so many things about which it would be appropriate.

We wonder where the weathermen keep their thermometers. Towns that boast of nominal 88s feel like 120 when visited. Like last winter when it had to be cold enough to freeze the ears off the weatherman before his thermometer would register zero.

A grandmother was killed in Baker county saving a grandson from a fall. She did it, too. And we like to think the act was typical of grandmothers and that she was spiritually satisfied.

It's sort of comforting to know that congress is going to leave the White House instead of building another one. It may be the only landmark in government citizens will recognize pretty soon, and it will be doubly valuable then.

Wheat Crop Still Hot, Dry July Ends With 98 Degree Day, Crop Year Dry, Too

With harvest half over at least the indication is still that the 1949 crop will be above average and that the county will warehouse 3,000,000 bushels of wheat.

Around Wasco many farmers are getting through with yields almost invariably more than expected. The same is true of the Moro community and to a lesser extent at Grass Valley. At Kent there has been some disappointment although the crop there will be about average.

The harvest has been odd in one particular. Many farmers were through before others had started. The eastern fringe of the county started right after the Fourth of July and many were done before the heavier land farmers had pulled out.

Elgin is generally yielding more than Rex but not invariably. Turkey wheats are below average and spring wheats are making light returns. There is actually more No. 1 wheat than expected although most of the wheat is running No. 2 or No. 3. No great smut dockage has been reported.

There's no excitement about it. Farmers just went out and began cutting grain when it was ready or a little before, like starting to plow in the spring and with very few men. Storage is ample, in fact, Sherman county could store well over a big crop with the new storage that has been built in recent years.

Grass Valley Trees Need Curative Spray

Silver Leaf Poplar trees in the Grass Valley area were attacked by an insect known as Satin Moth causing considerable damage this year. Known scientifically as *Stilpnotia salicis*, this insect nearly stripped the poplar trees of their leaves during the spring months.

Citizens of the area aroused by the possible ultimate effect, asked the assistance of the county agent's office. Through the assistance of the OSC extension entomologists the insect identification and control measures have been presented.

The Satin Moth, occurring for the first time in eastern Oregon may be combated during the eating caterpillar stage in the spring with 5 pounds of powdered arsenate of lead and a spreader to 100 gallons of water. A DDT solution may be used, but it is not as effective.

Moths have been observed in the Moro and DeMoss Springs area indicating migration and a control program for citizens in these areas next spring.

Game Commission Bans Deer Hunting

After holding the regular second public hearing Saturday, July 23, the Oregon State Game commission made the final hunting regulations for 1949. The regulations were set as previously announced in the tentative regulations with five relatively minor changes. The changes made were as follows:

1. The extended elk season in the Baker area will close on December 31 instead of on January 31 as was announced in the tentative regulations.
 2. The portion of Douglas county lying east of U.S. Route 99 will be closed to elk hunting.
 3. The Mountain Sheep Game refuge in Wallowa county will be open to waterfowl hunting only.
 4. The Myrtle Park Game refuge in Harney county will be closed to hunting.
 5. Sherman county will be closed to deer hunting.
- The commission hopes to have the hunting regulations out in regular printed form before the first of September.

Carl Hill, chairman of the recently appointed Oregon State Game commission, announced late Saturday that the commission had appointed Charles A. Lockwood to the position of State Game director, the term to run through December 31, 1949.

Hot, Dry July Ends With 98 Degree Day, Crop Year Dry, Too

July was dry. It was as dry as any July. It didn't rain at all. The average is a puny 0.18 inch and the July of this year missed the average by just that much. The crop year total is 10.39 inches which is .78 inch below normal. The growing season precipitation was 2.11 and that is 1.18 inches short of the normal.

The hottest day of the year so far, was 99 degrees and that on July 15. The heat on July 30 and 31 sent the thermometer to 97 and Monday to 98. Coldest night was on July 7.

For the growing season, which is March 1 to July 31, this year was the driest since 1939 when there was but 1.95 inches. Back in 1924 there was but .92 inch.

4-H Club Program For PI Made Up

[The 4-H club part of the 1949 Pacific International Livestock Exposition will start October 7 and will close with the combined 4-H, FFA and open class auction sale on October 12, according to information received recently by T. W. Thompson. 4-H exhibits in the livestock classes will be limited to fat animals for market. Livestock entries are due in the office of the Pacific International by September 20.

The Portland Union Stockyards is again sponsoring the pig feeding contest at the P. I. Only 4-H pig club members are eligible to enter this contest.

The Pacific Wool Growers is again cooperating with the P.I. in putting on the wool show. 4-H sheep club members are urged to exhibit fleeces in the 4-H club division of the P. I. Wool show. The objects of this exhibit are to encourage production of better wool and its proper preparation for market and to ascertain the best fleeces according to commercial grade.

Information in regards to either contest may be obtained through the county agent's office.

School Living Costs Still Going Up

Attending one of the schools of the State System of Higher Education costs about \$750 today, or about double what it did ten years ago, business managers and housemothers at the institutions say, but residence fees have gone up only 80 percent. Largest increase has been in room and board, and increase in cost of books is another factor in the rise, managers of the cooperative book stores report.

Room and board, at the University of Oregon and Oregon State college, is \$503, compared with \$245 in 1939-40. Institutional fees, at the same schools, will be \$127.50 in 1949-50, compared to \$96 in 1939-40.

WHEAT CARRYOVER BIG

The United States carryover of wheat on July 1, 1949 in all positions was estimated to be 293 million bushels, according to the weekly grain market review prepared by the OSC extension service from USDA reports and other data. This supply is about 50 percent larger than the carryover a year ago. It is also around three times as large as the relatively small carryovers of 1946 and 1947. Present stocks, however, are only about half as large as the peak carryovers of wheat in 1942 and 1943.

Stocks of wheat in Oregon, Washington and northern Idaho on July 1 were reported to be around 25.8 million bushels. This is about three times the carryover of the small stocks a year ago. However, the present supply is about average. While the total stocks of wheat in the northwest are about 18 million bushels above a year ago, the present wheat crop is estimated by the bureau of agricultural economics to be over 20 million bushels under a year ago. Also during July the Commodity Credit Corporation is exporting around 7 million bushels of wheat from northwest ports.



The above picture was taken about 45 years ago and the original is owned by Aden Axtell. In the foreground is a sample of the transportation facilities of the day.

Most of the brick buildings had been built and that was done before 1903. On the left is the Hansen house (the then) Baptist church and the school

house now gone. A pictured store building has given way to Charley Belshee's residence. The bowling alley attached to the Raymond building can be seen and the business building that became the Ellsworth Hotel and now the Woman's club building. Moro's two churches were built by then. The big wooden building across from Paul May's

house was a dance hall and long since burned. R. J. Ginn had a hardware store on the present Foss & Co. corner (state garage) and the famed Blue barn and Moro Hotel where Leon Moore lives.

Such trees as were planted were small. Although the town had been here for some 20 years the planting of trees was not

considered necessary. Sidewalks on the upper side of Main street were high and of uneven height so that a walker was going up or down steps constantly. There was dust in the streets, horses at the hitching racks, wheat in the fields, hope in the hearts of the young for Moro was going to be the metropolis of the great inland empire.

Varied Ratios Used To Estimate County Values

The total net taxable value of Sherman county is \$8,252,107 or an increase of \$174,187 or 2.16% over 1948. Total full value of the county is \$12,783,578 and the assessment is made on a ratio of 64.58%. Real property has an assessment of \$6,917,270 on a ratio of 66.82% of full value of \$10,352,450 and is a gain of 0.70% but personal property is assessed \$1,338,997 or 55.08% of full value of \$2,431,098 which is a net increase of 10.33% announces the Oregon State Tax Commission.

Real Property Breakdown

Tillable land	\$5,608,480 at 70% ratio of \$8,140,686.
Non-tillable land	\$293,910 at 75% ratio of \$391,880, a decrease of \$10.
Platted land	\$52,230 at 70% ratio of \$74,614 a decrease of \$8,510.
Improvement on unplatted land	\$57,890 at 50% ratio of \$629,520, increase \$7,100.
Personal Property Breakdown	
Improvement on land of U.S.	decrease \$5,100.
Merchandise	\$120,000 at 70% ratio of \$171,429, increase \$10,580.
Machinery	\$28,330 decrease.
Furniture and equipment	\$50,523 at 60% ratio of \$84,205, increase of \$8,803.
Farm implements	\$718,974 at 60% ratio of \$1,198,290, increase of \$130,954.
Livestock	\$449,500 at 46% ratio on \$977,174, increase \$8,550.
Miscellaneous	decrease \$130.

STRAW BOARD NOW MADE

Sherman county wheat farmers may some day benefit from a new process for making insulating building boards from straw recently announced by the United States department of agriculture says the county agent.

This recent development promises to help wheat straw compete with sugarcane bagasse and wood pulp as a raw material for insulating boards, and to top the nation's unused straw resources. About 40 million tons of wheat straw alone is burned or wasted every year on American farms.

SPEED INCREASES DEATHS

Statewide records show that one in every six traffic accidents taking place at speeds between 60 and 70 miles an hour results in a fatality, Secretary Newbry has reported.

Above 70 mile an hour, almost every other accident causes a death. Between 30 and 40 miles an hour, an accident is fatal only once in 98 times.

About the County about folks you do know or would enjoy knowing

Lights Seen In Moro Sky By David Nish

The man in the air field tower in Portland who saw lights above his field has nothing on David Nish.

Mr. Nish at 90 doesn't sleep the best and Monday night he arose and looked out his window. From the Conlee and Houston places there came a series of lights that fluttered around and seemed to settle over a small pile of dried weeds in the Nish yard. They didn't ignite and the next morning looked as if they had entertained no nocturnal visitors.

Once before Mr. Nish saw some bright lights and the accuracy of his perception was confirmed by reports from Bend where the lights were said to be from a meteorite.

Tax Study Group Starts Meetings

Mr and Mrs Giles French will be in Salem this week end where he will attend the organization meeting of the 1949 tax study committee of which he is a member. The group is composed of students of Oregon's tax system and of taxes in general, several members having been a part of the 1945 tax study group which wrote a comprehensive report on Oregon taxes.

Members of the 1945 committee also of the 1949 group are Senators Howard Belton and Eugene Marsh; Kelley Loe, who represents labor; Earl B. Day, former member of the state tax commission, and Mr. French. New members are John Sell, state representative of The Dalles, and Mrs. Louise Humphrey of Oregon Business & Industry, Portland.

MRS. EMANUEL ESSLINGER BURIED IN ELLENSBURG

Mrs. Gracie Myrtle Esslinger was born June 18, 1877 in Illinois, and died in Ellensburg, Washington, Saturday July 30, 1949 at the age of 72 years. She had lived in Ellensburg the past fifteen years where she was buried Tuesday.

Survivors are her widower, A. E. Esslinger, Ellensburg; three sons, Curtis of Pullman, Washington, Willis and Kenneth of Ellensburg; two daughters, Mrs. Ninus Powers, Moses Lake and Mrs. Opal Hinkle of Portland; thirteen grand children and four great grand children. One brother, Virdian Martin, Huntington Park, California.

Mr and Mrs John Block and her mother, Mrs. John Hays, Mr and Mrs Don Smith and son, Larry and Keith Barnett motored to Ollalie lake Sunday where they spent the day picnicking.

Mr and Mrs Guy Haynes of Yamhill stopped a while Saturday at the home of his sister, Mrs. A. A. Dunlap, on their way to Yakima, Wn., to visit their daughter, Mrs. Bill Duncan and family before leaving for Anchorage, Alaska, to visit another daughter, Mrs. Bill Lafavor and family. They plan on returning by boat about August 23.

Mr and Mrs A. A. Dunlap were dinner hosts Friday evening in honor of their grand daughter, Connie Wilson of Moro, who celebrated her 18th birthday anniversary. Other guests present were Mrs. Doris Wilson and daughter, Dorothy, and Wily Knights of Moro and Herman Peters Jr.

Mr and Mrs Dick Edwards and daughter, Betsy, of Leaberg, Mrs. Walter Kindt of Eugene brought Mrs. John Engstrom home Saturday after spending two weeks at the Edwards home. Mrs. Kindt remained here and the Edwards left Sunday to return to their home. Frankie Baker accompanied them to his home in Springfield after spending several months here with his uncle and aunt, Mr and Mrs Frank Pike.

Mrs. Charles Perrigo and Mrs. Frank Bayer were in The Dalles Saturday on business. Mrs. Art Bibby and son, Stephen, Mrs. Joe Bibby and Margaret Baumgartner were in The Dalles Monday on business.

Mrs. W. D. Barnett and Mrs. Olan Stark and son, Terry, were in The Dalles Thursday on business. Mrs. Herman Schilling of The Dalles visited her daughter, Mrs. Jesse Helyer Wednesday and Thursday. Mr and Mrs J. S. Newcomb were in The Dalles Wednesday on business.

Dinner guests Saturday evening at the home of Mrs. W. D. Barnett were Mr and Mrs Harold Owens and daughter, Carol, and Mr and Mrs Olan Stark and son Terry, celebrating the birthday anniversary of Mrs. Owens. Mr and Mrs Jesse Helyer had as over night guests Friday Mr and Mrs George Smith of Warrenton and Mr Leslie from Orlando, Florida. Mrs. Smith is a cousin of Mr. Helyer.

Mr and Mrs Willard Barnett, Mr and Mrs Harold Owens and daughter Carol, Mr and Mrs Olan Stark and son, Terry, and Mr and Mrs John Koepke and children, Terry and Helen, of Bend were guests Sunday at the home of Mrs. W. D. Barnett. Mr and Mrs John Block and her mother, Mrs. John Hays, Mr and Mrs Don Smith and son, Larry and Keith Barnett motored to Ollalie lake Sunday where they spent the day picnicking.

Mr and Mrs Harry Wayne Young had as week end guests Mr and Mrs Harold Hansen of Oregon City.

This weekend will see most of the wheat harvested in this territory. There will be a few outfits who have longer runs, who will still have wheat to cut.

The weekend gave the community some warm days. For those that said, "I hope we get a little warmth absorbed before winter", it really was welcome. One day here last week it was so cold that heat was needed in the homes.

Sunday and Monday were cloudy, with sultry heat, and it looked like we might have an electrical storm most any time. However, no thunder was heard although lightning flashes could be seen in the distances all around here.

The Rufus orchardists have been picking some early peaches but it will be two weeks yet before the main crop will be ripe. Bill Greiner who is working here spent the weekend in Condon with his parents, Mr and Mrs Ben Greiner.

"The Arrowhead" is the name Mr and Mrs Carl Thompson has chosen for the sign of their new motel, and a large sign has been installed. The two houses and four units have been completed by the Thompsons and are now being rented. These units are the very latest in styling and decorating and are an added attraction for the town of Rufus.

Mr and Mrs Donald Klock and daughter of Portland have been guests at the home of Mr and Mrs Walt Morris. The Klocks who were on a weeks vacation also visited other relatives who lives in Rufus.

Delbert Deyo has been here for the past several weeks visiting and helping Carl Thompson with his work. Deyo is a brother of Mrs. Thompson and spent most of his life here in Rufus before moving away ten years ago. His daughter, Martha Deyo, spent a week visiting with relatives.

Mr and Mrs James Fox tried out their new Dodge sedan when they went to Troutdale for a few days last week to visit relatives there.

The Misses Eleanor and DeLores Fox of The Dalles spent the weekend at home.

Everyone here has been so busily engaged in their personal work, that there is practically no time for any social activities. The Womens Missionary society met Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Claude Coats. The ladies have been studying a book on China, and feel they have learned quite a bit about the Chinese people, and their customs.

Some Rufus friends met at the home of Mr and Mrs Hugh Mathieson Sunday night as a farewell gesture. The Rufus quartet gave two special numbers and "The Old Rugged Cross" was sung by all present. Then the Mathiesons were presented with a gift.