

Sherman County Journal

Sixty-Second Year No. 7

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Official County Paper

These Things We Note

by Giles L. French

"When I was a boy," said Uncle Emmett, "I went one time with Judge Smart over to the neighboring county seat where he was going to make a speech. It was along late in the fall and pretty cold but we made it comfortable enough by stopping along at farm houses to heat our bricks and we had lots of robes."

"Going up Cottonwood we caught up with an old cow-puncher who was bringing in a herd of cattle to the corral around a little cabin where there was a small stack of hay. He was having trouble and we got out to help him turn the cattle into the hole in the fence. As we drove on up the road the judge remarked that the cow-puncher had a hard way of making a living, out in the snow and cold and impressed on me the value of getting an education and evading the hardships of outdoor life."

"The next day before the speech the table around the judge was so full I had to move over to another one and there was the cow-puncher manfully staying away a plate full of hot vittles. 'Who's that pompous old codger leading the pack like a bell wether over there?' he asked. 'That's Judge Smart,' said a native. 'He's come over to make a speech at the Opera house this afternoon.'"

"A hard way to make a living," said the cow-puncher, "beating his gums together for the amusement of the curious."

People often try to get rid of one master and get another one in place of the first. That isn't a very good way to obtain freedom, as the price of getting rid of the first master is often pretty complete subservience to the second.

The water shortage in New York City indicates one of the troubles that come when so many people all want to live in the same place. One would think that modern transportation would have caused some of them to scatter slightly. Ten million New Yorkers would even drink a lot of water.

Last Saturday night we had a formal dance in our town, formal, that is for the women and girls. It seems to be a bigger and better event when the girls get out their long dresses from the pasteboard boxes behind the closet door and see if they can get into them again. It does as much for a dance as a jug of liquor.

There's endless variety in long dresses. Some reveal shapes ordinarily kept from the public eye, and others, with a bow here and a ruffle there, lead the observer to believe something that isn't so at all. Leave it to the women to dress attractively; remember the first one looked alluring in a fig leaf.

The story is going around about that man at Vale who wanted his cows to give more milk so, having read something in the papers about it, he installed a radio. The cows almost tore the barn down proving something or other. The farmer had to give the radio to his wife and like as not if she turns on the same program it will have the same effect on her.

We sure are getting sophisticated in this county; it has been years since a phrenologist has made the rounds of the towns. You remember them. Big hearty extroverts, sometimes blind or deaf—never dumb, and able to tell anyone something he wanted to know that was worth four bits. They threw in a warning or two along with the flattery but nothing to discourage anyone. For weeks after the professor had left town young bucks strutted around happy in the knowledge that they were aggressive and intelligent and sure of a successful career.

There's Uncle Sam running around with that loose-money again.

1949 On Way To Being One Of Driest Years

Unless there is much more falling weather before the year 1949 officially ends this year will be listed with the four driest ones since records have been kept at the Moro station. We are speaking of calendar years.

Up to December 14 only 6.85 inches of rain has fallen at the station and that that fell early did not get into the ground. Driest year was 1939 when only 6.43 inches of rain fell. The crop in 1940 was very good, too, due to rains in the following spring.

The year 1930 was a very dry year bringing but 6.69 inches of rain and in 1935 there was but 6.72 inches.

For the crop year, which is since September 1, we have had 3.04 inches to date which compares very well with the driest fall on record. That was in 1939 when 1.27 inches fell up to December 1. The normal for the first three months is 3.39 and this year 2.78 inches fell.

November was a warm month the mean temperature being 43.3 which compares very well with the average which is 38.7 degrees. So far December hasn't been very cold, the mean for the first half of the month being 34.6 degrees.

STATE MEN AT CORVALLIS

This is the week in which all local employees of the extension and experiment service pack up their year's experience in their head and take off for Corvallis where a get together called a conference is held annually.

Gone from Moro are George Mitchell, Bill Hall, and Tommy Thompson with wives and families in some instances. The theory is that they will return filled with wisdom and imbued with new faith in the importance and necessity of their jobs.

PROGRAM SCHEDULED

The Christmas program presented by the pupils of the grade school will be held at the school house Wednesday night, December 21 at 7:30 the public is cordially invited. The program consists of an operetta, "When Santa Comes To Town," by the first and second grades directed by Mrs. Fred Crowley; "A Plot To Kidnap Santa" by the third and fourth grades, directed by Mrs. Catherine Sonnenberg; a tableau, "The Healing Christ," by the fifth and sixth grades directed by Mrs. Mildred Keiper and "The Night Before Christmas" by the seventh and eighth grades directed by Donald Keiper.

PRESS WOOLS CAREFULLY

To make woollens, particularly gabardines, hold their original appearance, press them "over" and "under" a woolen cloth, suggests Miss Muriel Scales, O.S.C. extension clothing and textiles specialist. The right side of the garment, she adds is placed next to the wool covering on the ironing board. In shrinking the fullness out of the hem on a woolen garment, place a piece of cardboard between the hem and the garment to prevent shrinking the outside.

RAINS HELP CROPS

Recent rains have improved small grain prospects in the Pacific northwest. In Washington and Oregon, wheat is now growing fairly well. More rain is needed in some portions of California. Elsewhere west of the Continental divide, adequate moisture and unseasonably warm weather enabled small grains to make good growth.

"The condition of small grains east of the Rocky mountains ranges from fair to mostly good. However, the general need for more moisture continues. Winter wheat is drying in parts of Nebraska. In the north-central border states, recent rain and snow improved the surface moisture, but subsoil moisture is still insufficient.

Recent rains have improved pasture and range conditions. However, more rain is needed in California to improve pastures. In Kansas, wheat fields in most sections continue to furnish excellent pastures, with livestock making outstanding gains.

Grass Valley Groups Arranging Christmas Programs for Children

Committees including Mrs. Allan Bekkedahl, Mrs. John Reckman and Mrs. Vern Mobley where she spent several days on from the Rebekah lodge and Mrs. Gene Reynolds, Mrs. Donald von Borstel and Mrs. Marcus Eslinger met at the home of Mrs. Eslinger Thursday to make plans for the Christmas party to be held at the Legion hall in Kent Saturday, December 17 at 7:00 o'clock. A Santa will be present. There will be no exchange of gifts this year. Refreshments of sandwiches, cookies and punch will be served. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Reynolds Mr. and Mrs. Roy Schilling and son Gary, and Mrs. W. F. Schilling were among the business visitors in The Dalles Monday. R. A. Stow left Monday for Portland where he will spend several months with relatives. Ed Alley motored to The Dalles Saturday to meet his daughter, Mrs. Wayne Karnes and son, Ray Edwin, who arrived from Studley, Kansas to spend the Christmas holidays here with her parents. He also brought Mrs. Alley home from the hospital where she spent several days for medical attention.

Mr. and Mrs. Art Bibby went to Portland Friday to visit her sister, Mrs. Edison Sutherland, who is in the Emanuel hospital. They returned home Sunday stopping in The Dalles to bring their daughter, Janice, home from the hospital where she spent about two weeks for medical care.

Mr. and Mrs. William Brinkert and daughter, Elaine, went to Portland Sunday for medical attention for Elaine.

Divine worship and Christmas sermon at the Grass Valley Methodist church next Sunday afternoon, December 18 at 3 o'clock.

Mrs. Bert Cox received word from California that her brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Augue are the parents of a daughter.

Mrs. W. D. Barnett and Mrs. Harold Owens and children went to Kent Wednesday to spend the day visiting Mr. and Mrs. Olan Stark.

Miss Cassie Holmes came up from The Dalles Friday to spend the weekend here with relatives. Mr. and Mrs. Archie Cantrall and children, Gene and Sharon, returned home Monday from Carlton where they spent the weekend visiting his brother in law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Kendrick Dunlap and family. Mrs. Bernard Martin and Mrs. Donald von Borstel were business visitors in The Dalles last Tuesday.

Mrs. John Rust and daughter, Geraldine, Mrs. Charles Perrigo, and Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Dugger were business visitors in The Dalles Saturday.

Care of Christmas Trees Advised

Treat your Christmas tree as you would a bouquet of flowers—stand its base in a pan of water—and avoid the presence of a fire hazard in your home during the holiday season.

This reminder from Charles R. Ross, OSC extension farm forestry specialist, points out that a Christmas tree, like flowers, loses water rapidly when exposed to normal room temperatures. This normal water loss, however, can be lessened in the Christmas tree just as it is in a bouquet.

The natural resins in an evergreen tree become more and more inflammable as the tree dries.

In order to lessen the fire hazard, Ross suggests buying or placing a tree in the home which has been "fresh" cut. Then, before placing it in the stand, saw a new diagonal cut at least an inch above the old cut in order to expose a fresh, moist surface which will absorb water, then by using a homemade or commercial stand that holds the trunk a few inches above the bottom, the cut end may be kept in a container of water throughout the holiday period.

This method will reduce the Christmas tree fire hazard to a minimum and will prevent needles from discoloring or falling. In the past chemical solutions such as ammonium sulphate, calcium chloride and ammonium sulphamate have been recommended for use in reducing the Christmas tree fire hazard. None of these, however, is superior to water, Ross states. In fact, recent tests by Underwriters Laboratories show that use of ammonium sulphate makes a tree more combustible than when set in water.

Fabrics such as curtains, clothing, decorating cotton and other materials may be fireproofed with a solution containing 7 ounces of borax and 3 ounces of boric acid in 2 quarts of water. Sprinkling the solution on fluffy materials will increase their resistance to fire; dipping will give materials almost complete resistance. The treated materials may be ironed.



FROM TRACK TO SAWDUST TRAIL . . . Lou Zamperini, former west coast track and field star at the University of Southern California, makes a profession of faith at a revival meeting in Los Angeles. His wife looks on. The revival movement, which has returned thousands of Californians to Christ in several weeks, is led by Billy Graham, nephew of North Carolina Sen. Frank Graham and president of an Indianapolis college.

How Road Tax Program Started When Motoring Was Young

Automobile owners of Oregon started picking up the White Man's Burden of road improvement right after the gasoline buggies first made their more or less erratic appearance to the horrified reaction of Old Dobbin and the very frequent damage to the One Hoss Shay.

The early automobile owners, all 40 of them, started the movement to put the new look on the roads right after they organized the Portland Automobile Club on April 19, 1905. They were an earnest group, equipped with long linen dusters, gauntleted gloves, goggles and an insatiable desire to go places.

One of those places was the Clairmont Tavern down the west side of the Willamette at Linn-ton. The road had the advantage of connecting with smoother city streets running past the Lewis & Clark Exposition grounds, was level, not too bumpy but all fired dusty in the good old summer time when it was nicest to go honking along.

The club members early discovered that while their goggles might keep the dust out of their eyes it would not keep it out of their noses or their throats so they decided to do something about it. They took up a collection, the subscriptions footing up to \$2,205 and on or about April 1906, spent \$1,655 (that representing all of the subscriptions paid in) in oiling a portion of the Linn-ton road.

By that time there were 242 automobile owners in Portland and confidence was expressed that all of them could be gathered into the organization. Seemingly, too, the 242 buzz wagons (some of which were Stanley Steamers and Locomobiles) had commenced to clutter up traffic, for on May 2, 1906, the minutes note the appointment of a committee "to see the city council to try to secure an 8 mile an hour speed limit inside the fire limits and 15 miles outside of them within the city boundaries."

Such is the history of the pre-statutory papa of the road users gasoline tax, the initial point of the virtual retirement of county governments from road construction and maintenance with direct tax money—the grand papa of what has grown into Oregon's better than \$350 million highway system since the creation of the state highway commission in 1917.

Prices of Farm Crops Still Dropping

Prices received by farmers continue to decline, but prices farmers pay remain unchanged, according to the weekly farm price, crop and weather review, prepared by the OSC extension service from USDA reports and other data. The parity ratio dropped to 100 on November 15. The government index of prices received by farmers dropped nearly 2 percent during the month ending November 15. This index now stands at 239 percent of the 1910-1914 average. That is the lowest level since June 1946.

The parity index — prices paid by farmers, including interest and taxes, but not including wages — stands at 240 percent of the 1910-1914 level. This index has declined only 3 percent during the past 12 months, compared with a 12 percent loss in prices received by farmers.

The greatest decline in farm costs has been in the items included in farm family living. This index declined 5 percent the past year. Commodities used in production were down 3 percent. On the other hand, mortgage interest rates increased 7 percent while farm real estate taxes per acre increased 8 percent.

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Board Chosen for PMA Work in County

Gordon Harper, Dell Olds and mandus von Borstel, delegates elected in the recent PMA baling, met at the PMA office, Tuesday 13 to elect a PMA county committee to serve during 1950.

O. G. Hilderbrand was re-elected to the position of chairman. Rank von Borstel was elected vice chairman and Russell H. Belshee a regular member. Alternate members to assist the committee are John J. Decker of Kent and David Richelderfer of Wasco.

Thomas W. Thompson, secretary of the Sherman county PMA committee announces that as a result of the recent elections held for PMA community committeemen for 1950, the following were elected from their communities.

Locust Grove: Chairman, Gordon Harper; vice-chairman H. M. Zell; member, F. L. Watkins; alternate members, Floyd Root and Don McDermid.

Wasco: Chairman, W. E. Bruckert; vice-chairman, L. E. Dehler; member, Fred Dormaler; alternate members, Dewey Thomas and George Drinkard Jr.

Moro: Chairman, Carroll Sayrs; vice-chairman, Lloyd Henrichs; member, Bob Belshee; alternate members, Charles Burnett and Bob Boynton.

Grass Valley: Chairman, William Holmes; vice-chairman, Lester Barnum; member, Dell Olds; alternate members, Art Schilling and W. O. Brinkert.

Kent: Chairman, Kenneth Sather; vice-chairman, Bill Jeffries; member, Harley McKay; alternate members, J. E. Norton and Jay McKay.

These committeemen will assist the county committee in formulating and administering agricultural programs for the county during 1950.

EX-PRISONER AIDED

Ex-prisoners of war were advised today that forms for filling claims under the war claims act of 1948 are being prepared, and will be available in Oregon as soon as they are printed. Only claims on the official form can be considered.

This word was received by the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs from Daniel F. Cleary, chairman of the war claims commission in Washington, D. C., the agency set up to administer the act.

The war claims act provides payment of one dollar for each day a U. S. armed forces member was subjected to malnutrition while held in an enemy prisoner of war camp during World War II. Although the act was approved by Congress in July, 1948, appointment of a commission was made only recently and the preparation of regulations and application forms is still in process.

Chairman Cleary's letter indicated that forms when completed will be distributed through an Oregon state agency.

LOAN DATE ADVANCED

The Sherman county PMA office announces that the closing date for securing a CCC loan or purchase agreement on the 1949 wheat and barley crop has been extended an extra month to January 31, 1950. This should be of interest to those producers desiring to carry-over wheat to the new year.

WASCO NEWS NOTES

A Girl Scout Court of Awards was held at Wasco school house, December 12, at 7:30 p. m. Thirteen girls received recognition by their leader Mrs. Pauline Kaseberg with Mrs. Leonard Fields assisting.

Looking forward to Christmas the children's time of joy. Wasco church of Christ sermon this Sunday "The One Universal God, Has Spoken" Special Bible study 7:30 p. m. All Welcome.

Cub Scouts of the Wasco community will hold their annual sale of Christmas tree ornaments this Saturday afternoon at Patty O'Meara's store in Wasco according to an announcement made by Lewis Hastings. By this sale the cubs make a good part of the money needed to keep the den running throughout the year.