

Sherman County Journal
 Published Every Friday at
 Moro, Oregon
 Giles L. French, Editor
 Entered as second class matter at the
 Postoffice at Moro, Oregon, under Act
 of Congress of March 3, 1879.
OFFICIAL COUNTY PAPER
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
 ONE YEAR \$2.00
NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION
 Member
OREGON NEWS PAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION
 JANUARY 13, 1950

263 BILLIONS
 Reporters say that the Russians are saying in their newspapers that America is going broke and are just waiting for that to happen. What the Russians say or wait for is of little consequence to us, but the fact that their hopes are getting such valiant support from the administration is a matter of great concern to us.

This nation reduced the national debt down to 258 billion dollars after the war by selling surplus materiel and cancelling contracts for materiel not wanted. Now in prosperous times, induced by giving goods away to destitute allies and enemies, we are increasing the national debt which is expected to reach 263 billion dollars next year.

One of the surest ways to prove that democracy won't work is to burden it with debt. No kind of government will work if weighted down with a huge debt—if it is honest enough to try to pay it. People lose their incentive to produce and without production all are poor.

Disraeli said "the world is wearied of statesmen whom democracy had degraded into politicians". He had it backwards; the world is wearied of politicians who have degraded democracy into dictatorship.

People can stop the trend toward national bankruptcy; they can do it by notifying their representatives in congress that they will not vote to approve the men who vote for excess appropriations—and then do it. Those who vote to flatten the public purse should stay home for a while, talk to taxpayers and listen to the bitter jokes about government spending.

INCLUSIVE PENSIONS
 The pension business is getting all mixed up. Through social security the government provides for some, through old age assistance the governments (federal, state and county) give pensions to some others, many firms provide a retirement payment for employees, many others are being asked or forced to do the same, many persons are in none of the lists and must provide their own pension or do without.

None of the pensions are large enough. This is a fault for which there may be no remedy because inflation grows with the added expenditures for pensions. It may be like a dog chasing his tail; to set aside the funds necessary for adequate pensions we may have to inflate so much that pensions will never buy enough.

But that objection will apply to any pension plan. If there is to be pensions everyone should have one. There should be no argument about that. Otherwise a part of the people are paying for something they do not get and others are getting something they do not pay for.

Probably the only way to arrange for everyone to get a pension is to put the whole pension business into government hands and let it be managed like insurance company. That would require another bureau or dozens of them and the government would perform the service much less efficiently than private industry. But how else can we provide pensions for everyone?

It has been authoritatively stated that men who get a pension from the steel and the coal industries will have to remain pretty close on the job. If they go running off to California they will lose out. If it was all managed by the government it could provide for percentage payments by employees and for employers so that funds were accumulated for the payments. It would be a compulsory insurance plan with an endowment feature at some determined age. As an alternative to some people being pensioned and others having to do for themselves the compulsory pension payment plan might be acceptable.

Either that or make everyone save for his own future with no payments from either government or industry. Payments from either source cost many who are not included in the pension list.

MEN AND FASHION

Men are a prosaic lot. A look at old pictures proves it beyond a question. Of course, if one goes back far enough he finds them pictured in knee pants, with long silk lined coats and wigs, powdered at that. But that was a hundred and fifty years ago and such resplendent costume was considered too patrician for the times and men took to trousers and coats of coarser cloth.

Since that time men's costumes have changed little. Coats have been short and long, lapels wide and narrow, trousers tight and loose but the changes are minor.

Women in the meantime have varied between dozens of petticoats and none, between narrow waists and none, high collars and none. They have gradually disrobed while men have continued wearing wool coats and vests and high collars.

A glance at old pictures shows women with straight fronts and straight backs, with big sleeves and bare arms, skirts below the ankle and skirts above the knee. Men or women either, had no choice about the styles and could only rest easy for the preferred one would be along again in a few years.

Men, we guess, are shy creatures and do not want to appear to differ from the pack, feeling, perhaps that looking like a man is enough without trying to look like any special kind of man. Maybe women are satisfied with that. Daniel Webster could walk down the street in his ordinary clothes and not be very conspicuous.

BUTTER BILL

One of the little items of democratic government that is sure to delight historians of the future is the do-over the margarine bill.

In a bright bit of legislation the dairy states caused a tax to be laid on oleomargarine and to prevent margarine that was colored to resemble butter could not pass state lines. It was a good example of using the laws to restrict competition of which we have a great number.

Now we are short of butter and have been for some time and the same government has stepped in to increase the price and to buy great quantities of it for storage in a cave someplace. The result is that people want to buy margarine. But they like it colored and see no reason why it should be taxed when other foods are not.

That's reasonable enough although it seems that the senators from the cotton states, whose cotton seed oil is used in margarine, find it more reasonable than do the senators from Wisconsin and other dairy states. That's the way laws are made in what we choose to call a democracy which is really a republic. And as peculiar as it seems it is much better than having some small group getting together and issuing an order.

TAX MEASURES

There is one advantage taxpayers have had in this post-war period that they did not have in the last one. In the years after World War I Sherman county had to pay a state tax of from \$32,000 to \$96,000 which has not been levied so far after the last world war.

This relates only to property taxes. Actually much more has been paid out in taxes on incomes both to the federal government and the state. However, these taxes are large because incomes are large and will drop with lower prices of wheat. It is likely that when that happens there will be a recurrence of state property taxes which may be as large.

Most of the state expenses that will cause state property taxes come from measures that have been voted by the people, not passed by the legislature. The method of preventing a return of state property taxes is naturally to not vote for any further state expenditures.

It is possible that voters will soon get an opportunity to vote on a measure to prohibit the state from levying a property tax. This was proposed by the 1945 tax study committee and is being considered by the present tax study group. It may take action by some agricultural group to get it on the ballot. It would of necessity be a constitutional amendment and need the vote of the people but it would protect real property owners when the next depression comes.

People's Column

To the Editor:

Does it take Experts? To find out that the quarter million spent each year for schooling is not educating any pupil.

To search the records for proverbial rat holes. Don't we know that the shift in personalities necessary to plug the leaks will still be up to us?

Then why put the matter on ice by leaving it up to highly paid experts? Because we are individually scared of public candor, of course.

Every thinking person in this county has his nose to the several rat holes as is shown by private discussion. He refuses to admit the rat is in his territory. He'd rather back-bite anything but a local rat while it is looking. (figure of speech) Meanwhile lets take a look at the holes (we could put it off some more, but our sins add up with each graduating class.)

The first rat hole is distance. That hole has been vacant so long that it doesn't even smell ratty. Parents who still keep their nose to it are engaging baby sitters and travelling across several counties to games engaged in during midweek by their teen agers. Bus time can easily be included in social studies very objectively by the project method.

A very smelly hole so far as economy and efficient instruction is concerned is district, or village jealousy. This is never admitted locally so long as you can keep baiting for rats in another district you can pound sand down your own rat holes. Wasco seems to have a little more sand than Rufus for this game. Though the other districts know how it is played, too. Of course, the experts will show that with only 100 pupils to work with or even twice that many, you would be hard put to have a well rounded curriculum in one high school for the county. They would never consent to two. But how can the experts ever break up

this twenty-round-no-decision bout as to where to spot this school plant? The present personalities in the rural school board can't make a move. But the people could latch on to their citizenship and parental responsibility if they could leave their love feast with jealousy. Little encouragement as they get, their children do not reflect this, thank God?

Last Friday a representative group of high school boys met with the county agent and organized a "tractor maintenance club". There was no shop, a public spirited rancher had studied and volunteered his time as instructor and the boys volunteered out of school time to pursue this educational course. They were keen alert young farmers who were athletes, had distinguished themselves in beef feeding and wanted to go on learning. And our \$260,000 per year spent in schools will not be out a penny. What is to be the function of our schools in the future?

Ted M. Ball

In Days of Old

From the Grass Valley Journal January 14, 1921

The farm home of E. E. Barnum was destroyed by fire this week.

At Kent and Grass Valley several thousand bushels of wheat was sold for \$1.50 per bushel. The gas engine that makes electricity for the city has a rusted cylinder and it may be some weeks before it will run again.

From the Observer, Jan. 13, 1911 George Berrian made an auto trip to Antelope Monday and found the roads bad.

George Simon has succeeded P. H. Buxton as bookkeeper at the Moro Hardware and Implement store and as justice of the peace. Mr. Buxton became deputy county clerk.

From the Observer, Jan 9, 1931 News of the death of I. N. Lemon at Corvallis was recorded. He died January 4.

New officers of the Moro State Bank are R. H. Coppock, president; J. R. Morgan, vice-president and J. L. Searcy, cashier. P. C. Axtell, W. H. Ragsdale and J. C. McKean are directors.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All persons having claims against the estate of Walter A. Medler, deceased, are hereby notified to present them, in proper form, to the undersigned, the duly appointed, qualified and acting Executrix of the Last Will and Testament of the above named deceased, at the office of Geo. G. Updegraff, Moro, Oregon, within six months from the date of this notice, to wit: January 13, 1950.

Fay Helmick Medler
 Geo. G. Updegraff
 Attorney for Executrix 11-14
 Eureka Lodge No. 121 A.P. & A.M.
 Meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings each month. Visiting members cordially invited to meet with us. C. S. Bennett, W. M. H. B. Pinkerton, Secretary

Moro Lodge No. 113 I.O.O.F.
 Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in I.O.O.F. hall. Transient and visiting brothers are cordially invited to meet with us.
 Leo Watkins, N. G.
 John DeMoss, Secretary

Bethlehem Chapter No. 78. O.E.S.
 Meets every second and fourth Thursday in each month; visiting members invited. Moro, Oregon.
 Olive-Young, W. M.
 Naomi Van Gilder, Secretary

Lupine Rebekah Lodge No. 116
 Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Visiting members welcome.
 Helen Kruger, N. G.
 Lucile May, Sec.

Want Ads

FOR SALE: Cedar posts, 27c ea. On Evergreen highway at Underwood Store. Ph. 3711. Underwood Merc. Co., Underwood, Wn. 10-21c

HARTS CHIX—Order early for layers and fryers. Dryden White Leghorns, Parmenter Reds Rock-Hampshire Cross and New Hampshire. Farm. Red and Leghorn cks. during Feb., March and April. Hatch every WED., year around. Prices and circular available. Harts Hatchery, Beaverton, Oregon 40-1fn

FOR SALE: The City of Moro will sell 100 sheets of 4 x 8 Fir-tex; 42 sheets 4 x 12 Fir-tex; and 10 sheets 4 x 8 half inch plywood.

FOR SALE: N. W. Thompson house in Moro, 6 rooms, full basement, oil furnace, hot water heater, fireplace, tile garage, chicken house, \$4750. Giles French, Moro, Oregon.

CUSTOM SLAUGHTERING — Meat cutting, wrapping, sharp freeze. Bring them in any day but Sunday. C & C Food Store, Grass Valley, Oregon. 21tc

FOR SALE—Now available for immediate delivery Willys Jeeps and four-wheel drive pick-ups. Complete Willys Overland line of panels, station wagons and Jeeps now sensationally reduced in price. Contact Willis Motor Co., Third and Lincoln Sts., The Dalles, Oregon. 22tc



From where I sit... by Joe Marsh
Why Scoop No Longer Works Here
 Scoop Blake paid us a friendly call at the Clarion's office last week and we were talking about when he was a reporter here.
 "Remember how mad I got when I found out you were writing that election story right from your desk?" I asked him. "And how I made you get out and learn what a sheriff's job was all about?"
 "I sure do, Joe," said Scoop. "I want to thank you for teaching me the that-trick—putting on my hat and finding out the facts, that is." Then we both had a good laugh because he found out so much that

darn if he didn't run and get elected sheriff himself!
 From where I sit, we should find out the facts before we try to talk about anything. When we do, we're inclined to be more tolerant... we're apt to understand a little more about the other fellow's preference for, say, his political candidate or for a temperate glass of beer now and then. I say, if you don't want to get tripped up, don't leap to conclusions!
 Joe Marsh
 Copyright, 1950, United States Brewers Foundation



SOME SHOOTIN' IRON, PARDNER . . . President Truman examines and admires the pistol carried by Mike Follard, son of a Washington correspondent, who greeted him upon his return by plane from Chicago. The President landed at National airport after a two-and-a-half hour flight from the Windy City where he addressed officials of the Shrine convention.

Rufus grange met in regular session Thursday evening. Atlee Wilson the regular master who is ill was unable to be present, so a past master, Will Huck presided at the meeting. It was not a very good night for traveling; therefore but eleven members answered roll call. A good program was put on by the lecturer, Mrs. Harland McDonald.

George G. Updegraff
 Attorney at law
 MORO
 Monday, Wednesday, Friday
 Afternoons
THE DALLES
 211 East Third Street
 Telephone 3209

The city council granted a card room license to G.J. Blum at les meeting Tuesday night and also paid \$1000 on its bond issue to reduce the city's debt to \$7500.

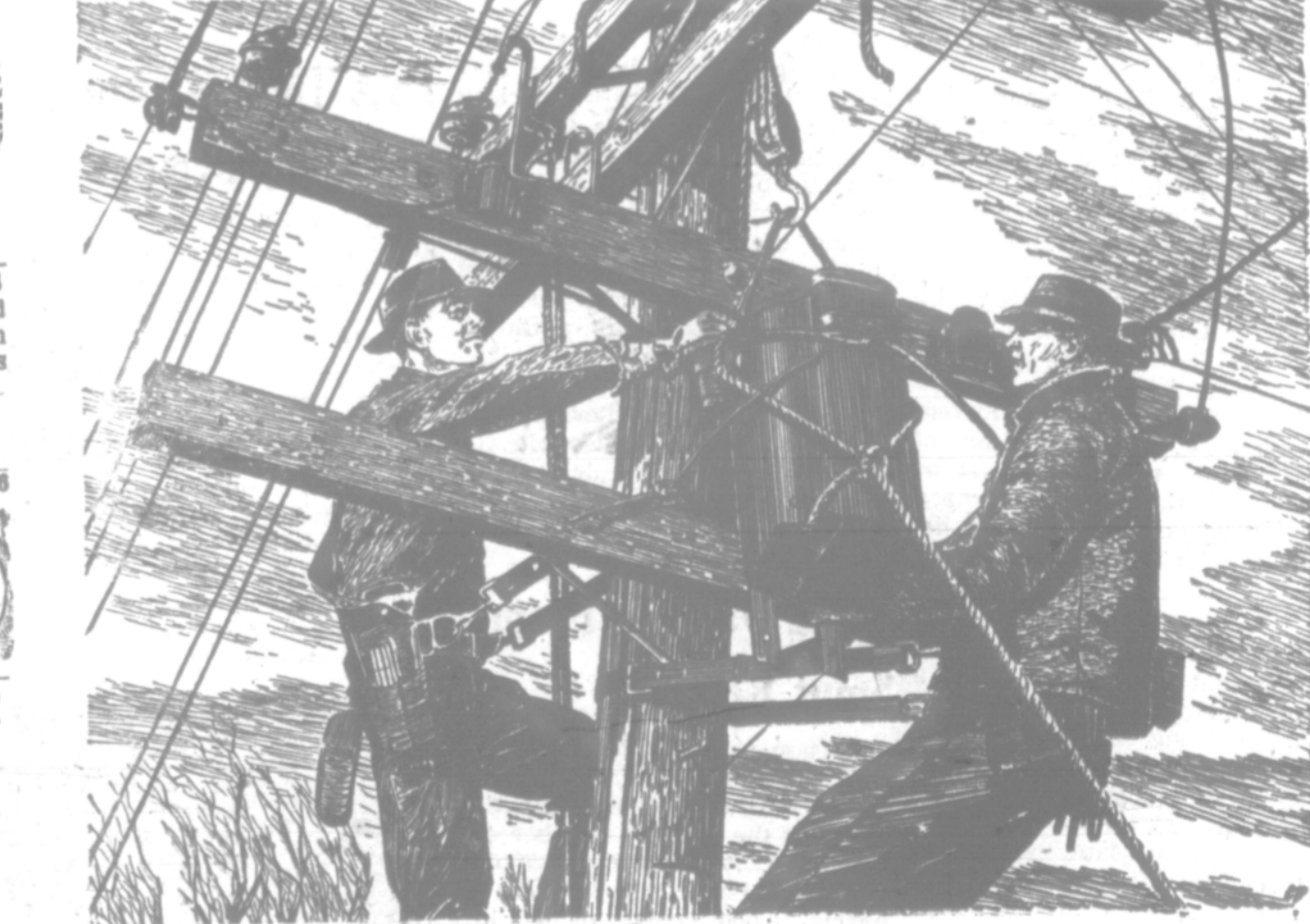
GO TO BLUM'S
 2 1/2 Gallons \$4.00
 One Gallon 1.60
 Half Gallon .95
 Quart .50
 Pint .25
ORDER PIES, CAKES, MAPLE BARS, DOUGHNUTS FRESH EVERY DAY
ALL POP FIVE CENTS

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 Clothing for the Littlest ones, all of them. Complete stock of babies' wear, and the cutest things, too.
Sweaters and Skirts for Schoolgirls - Beanies - in bright felts - Beautiful new fall dresses
The Gay Shop
 Gavin & Gavin
 Attorneys for Estate
 The Dalles, Oregon



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TED BARTON
 President, Hood River Chamber of Commerce



POLE-TOP TRANSFORMERS are the last links between high-voltage lines and the wires that carry power to your home. Nearly 1,000 of these vital units have been added in the past year, as P&L continues its record-breaking building program.

Pacific Power & Light Company has spent more than \$25,000,000 on new construction since V-J day. These are taxpaying, job-making dollars—development dollars—invested here in the great Northwest to help meet your electrical needs. The power requirements of a fast-growing region demand a steady flow of these development dollars into the Pacific Northwest. That is why all of us want investors to look at this region as a land of opportunity, and of fair reward. The investor whose dollars help extend and improve your low-cost electric service, while sharing your tax burden, is truly a Partner in Progress!

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CLUB TO MEET
 The Sherman County Club is to meet next on Wednesday the 18th of January when Allan Tom will have charge of the meeting as agricultural chairman. He expects to explain the new PMA rulings and to have Paulen Kaseberg and Floyd Root talk about the recent wheat league executive meeting at Pendleton. The meeting will be at the Moro Hotel at noon, with every one welcome.

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 PHONE 1334
 800 KELLY AVE.
 A wide range of prices that meets all wishes

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the undersigned Executors of the Estate of W. H. Carlisle, deceased, have filed in the County Court of Sherman County, State of Oregon their final account as such Executors, and that the 30th day of January, 1950 at the hour of 10:15 A. M., has been fixed by said Court as the time for the hearing of objections to said report and the settlement thereof.
 Horace S. Carlisle
 Marvane Carlisle
 Executors

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the undersigned Executor of the Estate of Mrs. Louie Davis, Deceased, has filed in the County Court of Sherman County, State of Oregon, his final account as such Executor, and that the 30th day of January, 1950, at the hour of 10:00 a. m. has been fixed by said Court as the time for hearing of objections to said report and the settlement thereof.
 Sam Davis
 Executor

Gavin & Gavin
 Attorneys for Estate
 The Dalles, Oregon