

Sherman County Journal

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Giles L. French Editor

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OFFICIAL COUNTY PAPER

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FARM PRICES

PMA committeemen recently received from the county agent a letter which quoted E. Harvey Miller, state PMA chairman, on several points in defense of the farmers and the prices they receive.

The quotations appear wholly factual and the calling attention to the fact that the price of food comes more from high labor costs than from high farm costs is appropriate.

And that brings us back to the time when the theories about aiding farmers differed from the one which became so popular within the last 18 years.

For those who remember the original farm board it will not be news that it had for its aim the reduction in the cost of marketing of farm products, trying to reduce the gap between what the producer got and the consumer paid. In those days it was held that the farmer's trouble came from his getting too small a part of the consumer's dollar.

Then we had a general election and a chance in economic policy which resulted in a program designed to help everyone indiscriminately. The farmer got more, the laborer got more, the consumer got more and the taxpayer (who was all of them) paid more. The theory that the farmer could be helped by efficient marketing was forgotten.

In this county we have had good crops and bad; good prices and bad until there is confusion about which did the greatest good. Most farmers seem to be voting for good crops as the best aid.

Now here comes Harvey Miller, PMA chairman for the state saying that the cost of living isn't the farmer's fault. That is just what we were saying 20 years ago. It is still right. Only we have lost 20 years of work on it while we took in the profits. Now, with farm prices dropping and moresurpluses facing many farmers, we are getting back to the 20 year old problem which no one has considered during the get-rich quick era.

In that time the farmers have looked on complacently while laborers have boosted their wages three or four times, while transportation costs have boomed and profits have been, shall we say, "satisfactory".

Now the farmer must begin his old argument while everyone else is well entrenched in their belief about prices. Here are some of the figures in the letter: milk would cost 12 cents per quart if the farmer received nothing, a loaf of bread now 16 cents would cost 14-7-10 if the farmer received nothing, a \$50 suit would cost \$44.30 if the farmer had given his wool, a \$10 pair of shoes would cost \$8.63 if the farmer had given his hide.

Perhaps this is a start to get back to the main question which should be that efficiency in marketing is a major farm problem; that if all prices raise in a boom or a flurry of inflation the farmer's position is not aided but aggravated. He gets more money and it costs him more.

About the only remembrance of the original farm board is our cooperatives which did reduce primary marketing costs and still do. The farmers get the benefit from that every day, and on every bushel. That saying comes from greater efficiency.

All the glamour of federally fixed prices, however profitable, cannot long be a substitute for a marketing system that gives the farmer a price that recognizes his work and investment in the product. The farmer's relative position has not been improved.

Farmers like to get into the fields early in the spring and are already talking about it despite wet draws and soggy soil generally. But they'll be at it soon and the growing season will be officially started when the plows begin tearing up the stubble.

WHEAT QUOTAS

Of course, one shouldn't expect statesmanship in an election year. Nevertheless it requires a great deal of forbearance and forgiveness to overlook the action of congress in raising the quotas on those who have produced wheat a few years only. Admittedly we have too much wheat, we expect a greater surplus when the 1950 crop is harvested. The attempt to reduce acreage was probably necessary under the politically engendered circumstances. Then, why does congress come along (and this is the second time) and raise the acreage of those who are Johnny-come-latelies in the wheat game?

The effect will be to curtail wheat acreage in the real wheat areas of the nation and increase wheat acreages in the blow areas and occasionally farmed areas—in areas where wheat production is possible only with a government bonus.

It seems odd that some one has not been wise enough to perfect a scheme whereby federally established prices would drop as surpluses grew. We have had a scheme to reduce acres when surpluses grew; why not drop prices under the same conditions. This might keep out some of the men who grow surplus wheat; men who might better be growing cattle or sheep because their land is not adapted to wheat.

It seems possible that if congress pursues this policy we will have range land producing grain while wheat men grow beef because neither can get a quota large enough for the crop they are best adapted to produce.

No wonder there is more heart failure in America now than ever before when government has so much power and so little sense.

A real old timer stopped on the street and in words and tones that were both positive and slightly angered said that Sherman county had some of the best square dancers in his memory and that if those who want to learn the art of do-se-doing and ala-man-letting would gather someplace with a fiddle he'd see personally that they were instructed and without benefit of government, in fact, without cost to the taxpayers.

People's Column

To the Editor:

Now that our 1950-51 budgets are prepared and ready to drain off our tax money on our schools at the shameful and wasteful status quo, let us consider a plan of restitution for our High School program.

The upper end of Sherman County's fair ground has the proper lay out, accessibility and possibilities of development. No purchase necessary. Deep soil and ample water supply for quick poplar windbreaks and spacious lawns and plantings; now unused and unattractive in unkempt disorder. Athletic field on rodeo grounds with stands. Possibilities of swimming pool and recreational center during summer. The fair is in financial stringency anyway, and may have to join forces with Wasco county. (Some think this desirable.) Barns for 4-H and F.F.A. activities. Also adjacent to invaluable field and lab studies at Experiment Station.

None of us would attempt to establish why this county regards itself as a unit, in the light of one united community in supporting our county county fair, our county system of roads or our county assessment equalization without pondering our disunity in school matters. The question will not resolve itself by any pat word or phrase. The fact of its general acceptance is an inconsistency. You can not reduce an inconsistency. Only by dropping it entirely can we overcome the stalemate to any wise compromise or solution.

We can eliminate and resolve our present inelegant dilemma by this wider use of our already accepted county community property and find a saving and lasting satisfaction in the knowledge that it afforded opportunity for adequate and complete reconstruction of our sick and falling County High School System.

That way leads us forward, confident that because of a together effort, the best is yet to come. Improvement in the things we set forth for our youngsters spirals as they advance, to give them pride in the just use of their heritage—where our excuses are yet so pitifully weak.

Ted M. Ball

UNEMPLOYMENT LESS

Unemployment claims continued to drop rapidly during the closing days of February, but payments to those laid off during the final weeks of the record cold spell piled up an all-time monthly record of \$4,893,205, the State Unemployment commission reported today.

The total, which included \$91,092 in readjustment allowances to unemployed veterans in Oregon, was more than half a million higher than the previous record in January, 1950, and exceeded last February's combined payments by \$852,841 or 21 per cent.

Meanwhile local offices reported last week's claims load down 14,174 from the all-time high of 72,691 for the first week of February and a further decline expected as moderating weather permitted resuming of operations in lumber and logging, construction and other seasonal activities.

Only 2,996 initial claims, denoting new periods of unemployment, were counted last week against 7,053 three weeks ago. Compensable state claims dropped from 61,454 to 52,460.

Since the beginning of the benefit last July, claims have been received from 132,000 persons, but nearly 17,000 had insufficient wages to qualify for compensation. Slightly more than 100,000 received at least one check, and 17,000 exhausted their annual benefit rights. State payments reached \$18,608,554 for eight months and may pass \$25 millions for the benefit year despite a rapidly declining claims load.

RR HEARINGS SOON

Early hearings to be held in Eastern Oregon to investigate railroad class freight rates, have been requested of the Interstate Commerce Commission by Representative Lowell Stockman of Oregon.

In a statement from Washington today, the Congressman said, "my investigations have shown that railroad class rates within the Northwest are a great deal higher than they are between points east of the Rocky Mountains, and this is particularly true in Eastern Oregon and the inter-mountain area generally—the area between the Cascades and the Rocky Mountains.

He added that "while we must operate under the natural difficulties of long distances from the population centers of the various states, we do not want to be required to buy freight miles at a higher rate than is charged for miles east of the Rocky Mountains. Unless all territories have an equitable scale of freight rates, we do not have free trade within the borders of our nation, and we all know that free trade is one of the principles on which our national prosperity is founded."

Representative Stockman wrote the ICC recently in connection with its Docket No. 30416, a proceeding of investigation and inquiry with respect to class rates in the Mountain-Pacific territory. He advised the Commission that "many Eastern Oregon shippers would like to appear in person and present full and complete details with respect to obtaining adjustment of any rates which may seem to be unreasonable and unduly prejudicial to the territory. He also requested the Commission to "accelerate the hearings. The ICC assured the Congressman by letter that "there will be plenty of hearings at convenient points in the Northwest to give all interested opportunity to be heard." Representative Stockman said that he is especially interested in having the case of the Pacific Northwest presented, since, "due to its effort to obtain industrial development, it has not had the bargaining power to use in its effort to obtain favorable freight rates which the East has had."

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

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. 118 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

4-H Forestry Champions Know Woodlot Potentialities



One of 1949's state 4-H Club forestry champions and a local club advisor examines young pines that started him out on a forestry career. Four-H forestry lessons will later pay dividends in regular cash crops harvested on well-managed farm woodlots.

As an incentive to local farm boys and girls to turn their woodlots and small timber tracts into money-making properties, four college scholarships of \$300 each are being offered again this year in the 4-H Club forestry project. All 4-H Club members, working under Extension Service supervision and enrolled during the current year in a 4-H Club forestry project, are eligible to compete for annual awards.

As in previous years, top awards will be made on a sectional basis to the boy or girl having the best forestry record in each of the four Extension Service sections of the Nation. In addition to the scholarships, national winners will be given all-expense-paid trips to the 29th National 4-H Club Congress to be held in Chicago, November 26-30 inclusive. Medals will be awarded to each state winner.

This is the third consecutive year American Forest Products Industries, a national non-profit association of wood-dependent industries, has sponsored the 4-H Club forestry project. In the past two years' competition, eight of the college scholarships and free trips have been won by farm youths from the states of Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Montana, New York and Wisconsin, the latter two states having had national winners both years.

"It is most gratifying to see the upsurge of interest in forestry that is being shown by 4-H Club members everywhere," declared Charles A. Gillett, managing director of American Forest Products Industries, in announcing the association's continuing sponsorship of the scholarship awards for 1950. "These young people are learning the basic fundamentals of sound timber management and how to apply them to the farm woodlots of America. Certainly this assures an even greater progress in private forest management in the next half century and an ever increasing wood supply for this Nation and the world."

The local county extension agent will supply detailed information about the 4-H forestry project and the 1950 awards awaiting those boys and girls who excel in forestry.

Hi-Ways to Health by ADA R. MAYNE OREGON DAIRY COUNCIL

Indications are for eggs a plenty in February, along with such good dairy foods as milk, butter and cheese. These cold cold winter days call for hearty substantial meals, rich in protein, vitamins and minerals. Dairy foods will help you meet this menu challenge economically and with extra dividends in food value and flavor.

Since eggs are equally at home served at any meal, we have three menu suggestions—one for each meal of the day. Your breakfast eggs can be a dish to look forward to, or an unappetizing failure. Remember to cook eggs at a moderate to slow heat—they are a delicate food. Scrambled eggs with toast cubes adds a new twist for texture and flavor. They are good for a late Sunday breakfast, or an early Monday one!

Scrambled Eggs With Toast Cubes (Serves 4) 1 strip bacon, diced 1 Tbsp. butter 1 cup small bread cubes. 4 eggs, well beaten 1/2 cup milk 1/2 tsp. salt, pepper

Melt butter in skillet, add bacon and bread cubes, and fry, turning several times, until bacon is crisp and bread cubes are golden brown. Remove and keep hot. Combine beaten eggs, milk, salt and pepper and add to skillet. Cook, stirring almost constantly as egg sets. When almost set, fold in bacon and toast cubes. Serve hot.

Eggs make grand luncheon or supper dishes. Egg and Cheese Timbales a delectable dish, easily served with toast, vegetable salad, fruit and milk.

Egg and Cheese Timbales 3 eggs, beaten 1 cup of milk, scalded 1 Tbsp. flour 1 Tbsp. butter 1 cup grated cheese 2 Tbsp. chopped green pepper celery or parsley 1/2 tsp salt Dash of pepper

Melt butter, stir in flour and add milk, stirring constantly. When thick, pour over the beaten eggs, add cheese, pepper and seasoning. Pour into buttered custard cups, set in pan of hot water, and bake in moderate oven (350 degrees F.) about 45 minutes. Unmold on hot platter, and serve with tomato or chili sauce.

Here is a different dessert idea, very simple to make, but with delicious results. Try

EAST NEEDS WHEAT

The Far East can be expected to maintain a market for 90 to 120 million bushels of wheat a year—three times average prewar imports—despite anticipated declines from the record postwar levels, the Far East Grain Mission estimated today in an informal report to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The Far East, including China, imported 170 million bushels of wheat in 1948-49, but future imports cannot be expected to approach that figure. Imports of that size are dependent upon abnormal emergency requirements some of which have been met and others modified. Imports now are declining, and the 1949-50 total will be somewhat below 1948-49.

The 3-man Grain Mission has just returned from a first-hand study. Members of the Mission are Edward J. Bell, administrator of the Oregon Wheat commission; Archie M. Camp, president of the North Pacific Grain Growers; and Henry A. Baehr, cereals chemist and marketing specialist, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

As emergency imports are reduced, the Far East market will be supplied by exporting countries which: (1) meet competition on a quality and price basis, (2) make available competitive prices for wheat and flour relative to those of other commodities, and (3) engage in two-way trade with these countries to make possible their grain purchases.

Members of the Mission were impressed by the demand for wheat and wheat products in a part of the world that depends basically upon rice. Wheat consumed in most of those areas, however, supplements rice in the diet and does not supplant an equivalent amount of that staple.

The Mission emphasized that the Far East cannot be considered a "dumping ground" for inferior products. Consumers there were observed to be extremely selective in their food purchase. They appreciate variety in form and methods of preparation of staple foods just as United States consumers do.

APPORTIONMENT PETITION

Petitions will be circulated by County Farm Bureaus starting March 25, said Federation vice-president Marshall Swearingin in Salem today.

"Rural Voting Power must be protected if we are to preserve a prosperous agriculture for Oregon. Our Farm Bureau Board voted last week to support the 'Balanced' plan as offering satisfactory protection. The Board took action only after a majority of County Farm Bureaus reported favorably on the plan," Swearingin said.

"Farm Bureau is expected to carry the ball in circulating petitions in rural areas. Our counties have been studying the various plans since last fall and are prepared to see the 'Balanced Representative Plan' through to success," said Swearingin.

The Farm Bureau expects support from metropolitan areas, as well as rural areas, in the battle against domination of the Oregon Legislature and political "gerrymandering" made possible under the "Neuberger" proposal.

The "Balanced Representation Plan" would allot one representative to each county and distribute other seats according to population, limiting any one county to one-quarter of the total number of seats. Districting of the state under the balanced plan would prevent political juggling. Senatorial districts would consist of no more than three adjoining counties. Districts would be as nearly equal in population as possible.

LAND BANK LOANS

The Federal Land Bank of Spokane placed \$12,762,000 in new loans on its books during 1949, Henry Matthew, president, reported here today. This was an increase of \$3,227,000 over 1948 and the largest volume in any one year since 1935.

Mr. Matthew said borrowers in Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington paid off \$5,124,000 of their indebtedness to the bank last year and of this total \$2,784,000 represented loans paid off prior to maturity and \$2,340,000 represented regular principal payments on loans.

During the year the bank paid a 6 percent dividend of \$194,000 to its stockholders. All of the bank's capital stock, Matthew explained, is now owned by 70 locally owned and operated national farm loan associations. These cooperative associations passed the bulk of the dividend to their members.

After paying the dividend, the bank finished the year with \$9,931,000 in loans and contracts on its books; \$1,644,000 in cash; \$5,789,000 in government bonds, and with delinquencies of only \$354,000. It has no acquired properties for sale.

FARM RECEIPTS DOWN

For the first time in 12 years, cash receipts from farm marketings in Oregon have shown a decrease, according to the weekly farm price, crops and weather review prepared by the OSC extension service from USDA reports and other data. Data just released for 1949 show a decline of 13 percent from the record high of 1948. Farmer's cash receipts are still more than three times the prewar average, however.

Receipts from crops declined 15 percent for the year, and livestock and livestock products were down 12 percent.

Just how much the decline means in terms of realized net income to Oregon farmers cannot be determined at this time, as data on production expenses in Oregon are not available. For the United States as a whole, realized net income dropped 17 percent during 1949, according to preliminary estimates made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The realized net income includes the value of crops and livestock sold, placed under government loan, or used in the farm home during the year, plus government payments to farmers, and the rental value of farm homes, minus production expenses.

OES MEETS

Despite the flood conditions existing in the vicinity of Moro on Thursday evening, February 23, Bethlehem Chapter No. 78, Order of the Eastern Star, met at a stated communication, with Mrs. Kenneth Young Worthy Matron, presiding. Mrs. W. O. Sheppard Worthy Matron, Hood River Chapter, was escorted and presented with a corsage.

During the evening an affiliation degree was given for Mrs. B. H. Roberson.

Since the gathering was in honor of the past matrons and past patrons of the chapter, a consecration ceremony was given. "Faith of Our Fathers," "Take My Life and Let It Be," and "O Beautiful Star" were sung by a duet during the ceremony. At the close, the worthy matron gave a short talk on the history of Electa; then the past matrons and patrons were each presented with a red rose, and Mrs. J. W. Coons sang, "Ah, Might The Red Rose Live Always," accompanied by Mrs. Carroll Sayrs. A number of past matrons and patrons from other chapters were also introduced.

Nylon Sweaters in the new Spring shades to fit your wardrobe. Get your now— At Greta In The Dalles

Carroll Sayrs

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All persons having claims against the estate of Emma J. Sayrs, deceased, are hereby notified to present them, in proper form, to the undersigned, the duly appointed, qualified and acting Executor of the Last Will and Testament of Emma J. Sayrs, deceased, at the office of Geo. G. Updegraff, Moro, Oregon, within six months from the date of this notice, to wit: February 24, 1950.

Carroll Sayrs Attorney for Executor 17-20c

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned has filed in the County Court of the State of Oregon for Sherman County his Final and Supplemental Final Account as Administrator, with the will annexed, of the Estate of William M. Van Patten, deceased, and that Monday, the 20th day of March 1950, at 10:00 o'clock A. M. of said day, at the court room, in the court house in Moro, Sherman County, Oregon, have been fixed by the court as the time and place for hearing of objections to said Final and Supplemental Final Account and for the settlement of said estate.

T. Lester Johnson Administrator with Will Annexed. 16-19c

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING

Notice is hereby given that Charles A. Tom, Administrator of the Estate of Cora E. Bartholomew, deceased, has filed in the County Court of the State of Oregon for Sherman County, his Final Account and the Court has set the 13th day of March 1950 in the Office of the County Clerk in the Court House at Moro, Oregon, at the hour of 10:00 o'clock a. m. as the time and place for the settlement of said accounting and hearing of objections to the same, if any.

Charles A. Tom Administrator

J. Tracy Barton The Dalles, Oregon Attorney for the Estate

OCTOBER IS FAIR . . . Carol Rush, Memphis, Mo., who will play "Miss October" in musical movie, "The Petty Girl." Pin-up artist George Petty says there is no standard American beauty, as he is