

Sherman County Journal
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Annual CROPPING?

Something is going to happen. We are certain that many farmers are going to break away from the time-tested summer-fallow system on an experimental basis and try to see if they can grow crops more often than every other year.

Mr. R. Jackman reiterated his oft-made statement that the summer fallow system is but a temporary type of agriculture. This despite some sixty years of using it successfully in this basin.

New we have nitrogen fertilizers to aid the process of breaking down organic matter into plant food. It is not always necessary to summerfallow for moisture. Annual cropping would put the soil in better physical condition. These three things seem agreed upon by soil men and experimenters.

For the past ten or twelve years we have been getting more rain in Sherman county than our average. A little rain makes a big difference. In the first place the average production of wheat is about three bushels per inch of rain.

The average rainfall for the years 1930 to 1939 inclusive was 10.145 inches at the station. These were bad years. Beginning in 1940 when we had our first good wheat crop the average for the next ten years was 12.285 inches.

Mr. McDole bases his advocacy of two crops out of three on a 13 inch rainfall. Even with 12.285 we are barely out of the lower bracket of dry land agriculture.

No one will question that when the soil is filled with moisture a crop can be grown as well as to summerfallow and wait a year. That would be in the spring, naturally. How much risk should a farmer take in order to plant a crop in the fall, put on nitrogen and hope for enough rain to fill the soil?

Our average since 1912 is 14.48 inches. When it drops down to 10.065 as it did in the thirties we have crops that are very unsatisfactory. When the average gets up to 12.285 as it did in the forties we have good crops. That is when we think about growing wheat every year.

Undoubtedly in some years and under some conditions more cropping would be possible. But good rain making is more fully assured we seem tied pretty closely to rainfall as a limiting factor of wheat production. Nitrogen as a factor in wheat production has been solved by production of fertilizer. That is a fine step ahead. The use of nitrogen can serve to reduce the need for moisture as a means of breaking down crop residues in some cases. But nitrogen application is not successful unless there is moisture in the soil.

We have always gloried in the struggle of man to win a living from the land, which breaks down to farmers doing their best with farms. It is a continuous challenge which farmers in this area have met well. While the monetary rewards are pleasing we think the battle itself is the most attractive to good farmers. This will be an interesting struggle which we shall watch with pleasure.

There will be a bit of an argument about how much to pay the Columbia river Indians for their fishing rights before the dams are built. Treaties will be abrogated or, rather, bought out. All the Indians will have will be money—a useful article that can be exchanged for fish or whatever merchandise delights the shrewd mind. Nevertheless we think the Indians would prefer to fish. The attitude of the Indians about the country and that of the invading whites is entirely different. The Indians lived

on the country, lightly taking the fruits and the fish and the deer in whatever quantities needed for the year. There was not a capitalistic economy. They just lived here as naturally as did the coyote. They were not obsessed with an ambition to change, develop, remodel, make-over. They lived with nature, not for the purpose of changing it.

They have been restricted to reservations often of meagre soil and natural resources; they have been curtailed in their fishing although it has been defended well. Now the white will take away the fishing and give them an income, which will be a sort of tribal ester. We will take away the seasonal thrill of standing on a wet rock or dipping hour after hour for the salmon as we have prevented them from trailing the deer at all seasons.

When a hunting people come into conflict with civilization they stand to lose their way of life. If they can become accustomed to the frills of civilization that is alright and they are accepted. Otherwise there is no place for them and the easy careless life of fishing for salmon and trout, basking in the sun, picking the purple berries, shooting deer is lost.

We sometimes wonder if the white man shouldn't have tried it before discarding it.

NEW NAME NEEDED

We wish that some one would invent or discover a new name for the funny little bites Americans eat at cocktail parties. The matter is entirely beside the question of whether or not there should be cocktail parties.

There is an infinite variety of them, these little bites, the hostess brings around a big plate of them all displayed separately, some with shrimp, some with cheese, some pickles, and mixtures of crab and onion and even some sweet things. Fixing up a plate of stuff must be a wonderful challenge to cooks with imagination—or cooks with something that needs to be fixed up so it can be eaten.

But criticism of the type of food wasn't the idea. No one could criticize it as a whole because it is so varied. If you like food at all you'll like some of it. And remember it comes at the peak of hunger which gives it an added advantage.

Some people call them appetizers which is pretty American. Yet a little hard to say after a dozen or so and also it isn't factual, as we think the evidence is pretty conclusive that it isn't the food that causes the appetite. Probably the correct name is hors d'oeuvre which is different from appetizers in that it cannot be pronounced until after a dozen or so. Then there is canape, which means almost the same thing although it takes a nimble tongue to keep it from sounding like canopy which aids in keeping you dry instead of wet.

Until some one finds a better name it is likely that guests will be picking them up with their left hand and saying "I believe I'll have another of these little things."

WAYS TO NOMINATE

The United States News and World Report is advocating a different means of nominating presidential candidates and offers in argument the party organizations that sometimes are said to name men not the choice of the people. That is probably true.

If the magazine wants us to have a general national party primary to choose party candidates the suggestions leave us cold, very cold. There has been too much centralization in this country already and any further erosion on the power of the states is not in the public interest.

We further wonder whether or not it would be wise to do anything to weaken the role of parties in this country. We have two large ones that have existed, under one name or another, since the nation first began. Their policies are changeable in that both have at one time or another advocated nearly everything.

That isn't so important although it puts something of a strain on the man who is a party member because of family prejudices. He must choose between following his party or his principles.

Further division of American parties, or further weakening of their position might bring us to the unfortunate condition of France which has a multiplicity of parties—so many that no group can get enough votes to win a legislative majority. Great confusion results, and a small minority of citizens are able to block national action.

It has occasionally seemed that a better answer to the problem of party authority would be to give the parties more power. Let the people vote for a

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

For a good many years I have read the "County Paper", and just as often have I had the desire to write a letter to the editor. Even at this time I had to flip a coin to decide if it was worth the effort. Since we all know that a democracy isn't a democracy unless there is individual action toward a solution of common problems, I feel that I am justified in writing this letter.

You have often stated editorially, and otherwise, that the Sherman County Journal is, "By Sherman Countians, For Sherman Countians." When you say "for" I take the connotation of the word to be service. For a news paper to serve I would judge, though not a journalist, that the newspaper would bring us news-present through editorials and articles our particular problems in an illuminating, impartial manner. By impartial, I do not mean complete on-the-fenceless, but a judgement arrived at through years of experience, plus a critical evaluation, intelligently presented so that we may see all of the aspects of the problem, in a consistent manner from a consistent viewpoint. Though it is folly to assume everyone has that same viewpoint, so I go back to the one of "service." "By and for Sherman Countians."

On the editorial page of the January 4, 1952 issue you have stated under "1952 For Sherman County", a list of goals we could accomplish. Among them you state that maybe, if we worked hard enough we could get some work started on the John Day dam; improve more of the Cottonwood grade; eliminate a dangerous underpass on highway 97 near Moro, and last but not least, do something about the duplication of schools. By stating the schools last I assume you decided that that issue is the least important. Or is it a transitional device to prepare your reader for the next editorial? For in the next breath you go on at some length about schools. Not about our schools, but schools in general, I presume though, some reference is made to Oregon schools. Now, I am certain that we in Sherman county have a little different concern about our schools, and the problems revolving around them. Are you helping us to solve our problems?

I, for myself, am opposed to the unification of school functions, as some of us would have us do at present. They want a dictum to demand the change—like the psychoneurotic demands a pink pill from their doctor. Somewhere along the line they have dropped the link in their education that ties their thoughts and actions to democratic purpose. When things are done suddenly for expeditious purposes, we usually shrink back and call that an "ism." But when things are done cooperatively through the will of the people, then we are seeing democracy in action. As long as schools, or other social institutions serve their purpose in accord with the will of the majority, then the existence of that institution is justified. To make my point a little plainer I would go so far as to agree with Richard L. Neuberger, who a few years ago had a plan to do away with Sherman county, and several others as well, as there was no hard, factual reason for its existence. But do you think you or I shall live to see the day? I think not. There is a human element there that will not permit it, even though it supercedes reason.

At the end of the third column you have an untitled editorial-ette that ends with this sentence: "We do hope that we soon (will) get some 'leaders' who are not afraid to be frank with the people." I sure do hope so too.

Yours for better living, Sal Hepatica (Lee) Schwendel

Reader Schwendel's query as to why reformation of the county's school system was placed last among the suggested labors for Sherman county in 1952 may be best answered by saying that it is the least likely to occur. Editor.

Instead of for a man (something like the English system) and make the party responsible. If such a method resulted in reducing the position of the president it would be an added asset. It would probably be helpful if every state had to have a party primary even though it is difficult to prove that Oregon is much better off with it. We have seen many candidates that no party convention would have nominated.



Rufus News

It was cold most of last week. The snow was quite deep until Wednesday and Thursday the temperature climbed up to 50 at which time it melted a bit. Thursday evening, the thawing ground froze again, and the temperature has hovered below freezing ever since. From that time, the ground is pretty icy in spots. Travel hasn't been slowed down any and the famers are still getting around.

The Community card club met for its January meeting Tuesday night at the home of Mrs. LeLand Medler. Because the weather was so bad, and the roads icy, the men drove the women over to the party. (There was a surprise shower honoring Mrs. Frank LeMaster. The gifts were placed in a doll's bassinet and presented to Mrs. LeMaster. Mrs. William Macnab assisted her in opening her gifts. After the gifts were all admired, there was three tables of pinocle in play. Mrs. Tom Macnab received high prize while Mrs. Donald Macnab won consolation. After the card game, the hostess served angel cake, strawberries with whipped cream and coffee. Present besides the hostess were Mesdames Chet Coats, Kenneth Medler, F. W. Macnab, Frank LeMaster, Tom Macnab, Pat Macnab, George Fox and Don Macnab.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Weatherford and their son and daughter in law, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Weatherford of Arlington, were dinner guests Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Fox. Mrs. Earl Weatherford remained for a few days to get some sewing done.

Applications are being accepted for combined position of clerk of the school board and school secretary. This position will be filled immediately. Time required approximately half a day. Rate of pay \$1.50 per hour. Apply to Homer J. E. Townsend, Phone 711, Moro. 11c

FOR SALE: 1 5-yr. Guernsey cow. Just fresh. Phone 3R57 J. N. MacInnes, Rt. 1 Redmond, Ore. Bx. 149A 11-12c

WANTED: Man with car to call on farmers. \$15 to \$20 in a day. No experience or capital required. Permanent. Write McNess Co., Dept. B, 2423 Magnolia St. Oakland 7, Cal. 11-12p

AUCTION SALE: SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 19, MORO HIGH SCHOOL GYM. An Auction Sale has been authorized by the School Board of District No. 17 to dispose of miscellaneous War Surplus material including the following: nylon parachutes, blacksmith forge tools, carpenters chalk, dishes, drill bits, many other items. 10-11c

HELP WANTED: We offer an opportunity to establish yourself in a permanent, dignified business. Excellent profit. We will finance you. Give full particulars about yourself first letter. Write The J. R. Watkins Co., 137 Dexter Ave., Seattle 9, Wash. 5-10c

NEED AN ALL-PURPOSE CAR? Then see the Willis Station Wagon on display at WILLIS MOTOR CO. All-steel body, overdrive, plenty of carrying capacity means safety, economy and practical transportation. Also New Four Wheel Drive JEEPS, PICKUPS and STATION WAGONS. Contact WILLIS MOTOR for Willis-Overland Sales, Service, Parts and Accessories, West Columbia River Highway, The Dalles, Oregon. 23-1c

CUSTOM SLAUGHTERING — Meat cutting, wrapping, sharp freeze. Bring them in any day but Sunday. C & C Food Store, Grass Valley, Oregon. 211c

Twenty-seven were present Thursday night when the Home Economics club members and their husbands met at Rufus grange hall for fried chicken and all that goes with it. After the dinner Mrs. Harland McDonald gave an interesting account of their trip, she and Harland took to Memphis, Tennessee. When the meal was cleared away, Mrs. Roland Johnson called a business meeting. The new year books were completed and passed out. Mrs. Johnson typed and put all of them together by herself. Each one was to make their own cover and put it on.

Roll call was on what we wanted to be when we were in our teens. The women decided what each one would make for a bazaar to be held in the fall. Grace Medler was instructed to go ahead and buy material for the grange tablecloths. Mrs. Medler volunteered to hem them, also. Mrs. Medler won the drawing prize. The men played cards and visited while the women had their meeting. Mrs. Sarah Giannoatti and Mrs. Richie Dingle of The Dalles were guest. Others present were Messrs and Mesdames, Will Huck, Andy Engberg, Atlee Wilson, Walt Morris, Harland McDonald, George Fox, Roland Johnson, Curtis Neal, Wm. O'Brien, Malcolm Guy, Mrs. Grace Medler and Mrs. Luther Steward.

Mrs. Harland McDonald, Mrs. Roland Johnson, Mrs. William O'Brien and Mrs. Curtis Neal all met at the McDonald residence the first of the week to prepare the contents of the H.E.C. year books. When they finished Mrs. McDonald served cookies and coffee to the group.

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Wish good luck to
Sergeant Hun Toon of Vermont
Rifleman, U.S. Infantry
-and 54 years old his next birthday!



FIRST WORLD WAR... SECOND WORLD WAR... Korea—these are milestones in the career of this sturdy Vermont volunteer. A true son of America's original Minute Men, his whole life has been devoted to battling in defense of the land all of us love! Men like this are rare. And they deserve all the respect the rest of us can give.

Here's an idea. Today stop at your pay office—if your company has the Payroll Savings Plan—or else stop at your bank. Buy yourself an extra United States Defense Bond. And tell yourself you're showing an old soldier—a good soldier—that you appreciate what he's doing for you.

For your bonds, and other forms of saving, put a strong American economy behind a strong American army. They protect you, your family, and our servicemen overseas. Because they help create the productive strength that keeps us at peace today—when peace is only for the strong!

So how about wishing good luck to Sergeant Hun Toon—and more security to the family you love? How about buying an extra United States Defense Bond for them—today?

The U. S. Defense Bonds you buy
give you personal financial independence
Don't forget that bonds are now a better buy than ever. Because now every Series E Bond you own can automatically go on earning interest every year for 20 years from date of purchase instead of 10 as before! This means that the bond you bought for \$18.75 can return you not just \$25—but as much as \$33.33! A \$37.50 bond pays \$66.66. And so on. For your security, and your country's too, buy U. S. Defense Bonds now! Bankers recommend them as one of the safest forms of investment.

PEACE IS FOR THE STRONG...
BUY U.S. DEFENSE BONDS NOW!
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