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# Sherman County Journal

Sixty-Fifth Year No. 2

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County Official Paper

## These Things We Note

By Giles L. French

This week some communities observed Armistice day while many did not. A nation that goes to many wars is less inclined to observe the end of any one and certainly this nation has had a surfeit of wars in this generation. The end of none of them has brought the emotional release as did the end of World War I when people all over the land went wild with joy over defeat of Kaiser William. We were told by a pious, idealist and historian that it was a war to end war, to make the world safe for democracy. Those who did not echo the thought were slackers lacking in the right "isms". Wilson was wrong. The war didn't end wars nor did it make the world safe for democracy. He was an idealist, not a historian. Any amateur, historian should know better. Wars as a means of bringing peace are ineffectual. They breed hate and poverty and rebellious thoughts and disease and dissatisfaction, but not peace. So, some of us observed the 33 year old date of our exuberance over the end of war and the triumph of democracy. The date ought to be perpetuated; not for what it started out to be, but as a day on which Americans could remember that dabbling in foreigners business is foolish and that fighting is a poor prelude to peace.

T T W N

We know a man who took the advice of the medical writers about stretching his veins with a drink until they show in his face.

T T W N

Last week was the date of the beginning of the Sherman County Journal which achieved the comparatively ripe old age of 64. It was hardly noted and might have been forgotten had it not been for the act of checking the slug that announced the change in the year. We are now in our 65th year, although not exactly expecting to receive a disabling pension at the end of it. It is true that there have been some changes in name during the 64 years of our existence, no more than might be achieved by a marrying lady. We started as the Wasco Observer, became the Moro Observer, the Sherman County Observer as vision and transportation expanded and latest, and that over 20 years ago, the Sherman County Journal. It has chronicled the social progress of citizens of this county until there is but few alive who can recall when the first sheet came off the hand press full of homestead notices and the purple prose of pioneer hopes. It's a life, we suppose, for a newspaper as well as for a reader. Some work, some play, days of drudgery, a good laugh, a good cry, brightness and fog, and the world keeps turning around giving us daylight and dark, summer and winter while we fumble through it motivated by ambitions, fears, hopes, hopes. Some day they wrap it up and put it away and the last issue is off the press.

T T W N

Someway we think this almost unanimous kicking of Senator Wayne Morse is worse for the kickers than for the senator. He is plainly motivated by an overweening conceit, so vast that it has crowded out the possibility of the correctness of other measures than his own. Perhaps it is a form of insanity. At least to the extent that it indicates a variation from the normal.

T T W N

Now then the pollsters have four years in which to explain the errors they have made in the last four months. On the surface that seems ample, but when the magnitude of the errors is considered it seems hardly enough.

T T W N

The less Eisenhower confers with Truman the better. The very smallest part of the discredited administration taken by the new will be too much.

## New Bank Graces Corner of Fourth and Main in Moro as First National Expands



### Moro Loses the Big One, Maupin 14, Moro 0; Passing Deciding Factor

Moro lost its final football game at Maupin Armistice day by a score of 14 to 0. Maupin had a heavier line although it could open no holes for its backs to make yardage through the Moro line which played one of the best games of the year. Maupin scored at the end of the first half after a punt got away from the safety man and was recovered by Maupin on the 21 yard line. Zeigenhagen made the touchdown after a few plays. Ambrose, Maupin quarter, intercepted a pass and set up the final touchdown for his team.

## In Days of Old, the Banks Were Bold and Farmers Toed the Mark

A bank in Sherman county Portland, after numerous refusals with deposits of two and a half million and loans of less than \$200,000 must seem a peculiar institution or one in peculiar circumstances to old timers in Sherman county who can recall times when all five Sherman county banks had under one million in deposits and loans as large as deposits and capital stock together.

Those were the days, when farmers held a bank to be a place to get money instead of a place to put money. Natural enough for farmers of that time were more concerned with getting money than putting it. Farmers and banks have both changed along with the economic conditions and farmers can take pride in their bank accounts and also of the bank that cares for their accounts.

When the banks of Sherman county all failed during the depression era when financial anemia was a common ailment of banking institutions, the citizens who had a little money looked about to find a place to put their trust and their hard put dollars.

The First National Bank of

### Historians Dining

The meeting of the Sherman County Historical society at Grass Valley will have Lancaster Pollard, secretary of the Oregon Historical society as speaker, according to word made public by the program committee. He is a historian in his own right as well as compiling the works of others.

Program numbers from Rufus, Kent, Wasco, Moro and Grass Valley will be heard or seen. For the inner man or woman there will be a turkey dinner with the society furnishing the turkey and dressing while a potluck will provide the other fixings.

### Legion, Unit Install

American Legionnaires and their Auxiliaries held a joint installation at the Odd-Fellows hall Wednesday night in a sort of delayed Armistice day observance. Dinner attracted some 60 members at 6:30 after which Mrs. Marjory Leach, district president, installed Jennie Martin, sergeant at arms, Gladys Morrison, historian; Betty Christianson, treasurer; Florence Bruckert, vice president, Mollie McLachlan, president, had been installed previously.

Harold Leach, district vice-commander, installed Bon Christianson, commander; Darwin Van Gilder, vice-commander; Andy Paulson, adjutant; Lloyd Johnson, chaplain, Giles French, historian; Willy Knighten, service officer. Talks by the Leachs were about the Crusade for Freedom, the need for members, the coming end of the application period for the state bonus, and the virtues of universal military training.

## In Days of Old, the Banks Were Bold and Farmers Toed the Mark

nearly always necessary, they borrowed money from Portland banks to supplement their own funds. Interest rates were high, partly because that was the nature of the economy, but also because the bankers needed and wanted high interest. The Portland banks got high interest, too for they considered the risk pretty high.

Ten percent was the usual rate until 1917 when the Farmer's bank was started in Moro for the express purpose of cutting interest down to eight percent. Other banks followed suit. The first bank in the county was an enterprise of citizens of Wasco who formed a stock company to do general banking in 1891. Later J. M. Patterson and V. C. Brock obtained control of the company and failed in 1899 because of loose banking laws and poor times in the county.

But men of money were not to be denied. Moore Bros. & Ginn started a bank in Moro and occupied the same corner at First and Main in the Ginn brick building, that the First National bank moved from to enter its new quarters at Fourth and Main. Oddly enough, Fourth

street and First Street are but one block apart. W. M. Barnett moved rapidly from home-steader below Wasco to merchant and banker in his chosen city. The Baker brothers came from Iowa and interested successful farmers around Grass Valley to start the Citizens bank in that town.

Not only that, the Wasco Ware house and Milling company, a venture of the resourceful and vigorous E. O. (Dutch) McCoy and others, entered the banking business in Wasco and Moro. It was first an adjunct to their warehouse business and became a part of a wide-flung system of financing that included farms and farmers and local divisions of citizens and business because of banking affiliations. W. A. Gordon, a firm of Scotch money lenders established a bank in Grass Valley, managed by the burr-headed and redoubtable George B. Bourhill, who also managed warehouses for the same company.

These were money loaning banks. That was the purpose of their organization. They loaned a man money to farm on, starting in the fall after the wheat

## Open House Program All Arranged

Open house day at the new modern quarters of the Sherman county branch of First National Bank of Portland will be Saturday, November 15, and the public is cordially invited to attend, Bon Christianson, manager of the branch has announced.

All day Saturday, between the hours of 10 a. m. and 8 p. m., the residents of the Sherman and Wasco county area will join with the officers and staff of the expanding Sherman county branch of First National to celebrate the first day of business in the attractive new building on the corner of Fourth and Main, just a block north of the old bank building.

Plans for the ten hour festivities call for flowers for the ladies, cake, coffee and punch, and organ music played right from the lobby of the bank by Mrs. Carroll Sayrs of Moro, George Shamp of The Dalles and Mrs. Max Barzee of Moro, all well-known organists in this area. Roth's music store will furnish the organ for the musicians and the staff and management of the Sherman county branch of First National are exceptionally proud of their new banking facilities and all visitors will be given guest tours of the new quarters.

Residents of this section of Oregon have been looking forward to the completion of the banking quarters for many weeks and it is expected that large crowds will visit the bank during the day.

Business houses throughout Sherman county are cooperating to make Saturday, November 15, a gala occasion in this area as readers will see by this issue of the Journal.

The entire day will be devoted to welcoming the people of the area, and it is hoped that everyone will be present during the day, Christianson said.

Included in the new features of the bank building to be exhibited to visitors are additional new safe deposit boxes in a new enlarged vault which has reinforced concrete walls and a two ton vault door, modern birch fixtures throughout, friendly pastel colors on the walls, windows covering almost the entire front of the building and transoms windows along the top of the south wall. Teller's windows have been increased to four and a new after banking hours depository will be installed in a few weeks at the front of the building.

Total area of the new quarters is more than twice as large as those presently occupied by the bank. There is also a new customer parking lot just north of the new structure. The Sherman county branch will be open for business during the open house celebration.

Citizens of the county will have lunch with the officials of the bank at the Moro Hotel at noon Saturday, tickets being available from B. H. Roberson, T. Lester Johnson and Anita Dunlap.

purpose. They provided credit to men who seemed worthy regardless of collateral. They made opportunity available to those who showed character worthy of it. They expressed—and gave expression to—the pioneer urge to go ahead and do something without quibbling over details of books and papers and notes and such trifles.

Their day ended, at least was changed, with the depression of the 1930s. Financial institutions depending on the resources of one community had too risky a future and were combined into larger units that spread over more area, encompassed more enterprises so failure was made practically impossible. These are based on the general theory that "somewhere the sun is shining" and the strong can help the weak; until the day when the strong and the weak change places.

So this week the First National Bank, Sherman county branch, moves into its permanent home, built after 15 years successful banking here. It has settled down to stay, caring for the money of those who have and caring for the needs of those who must borrow it.