

Sherman County Journal

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County Official Paper

These Things We Note

By Giles L. French

Next Sunday will be the shortest day of the year, the day when we turn away from darkness and start the six month climb to a long bright day next June when the sun will turn its back to us again.

The shacks still exist on the north side of the highway at Celilo and are still occupied by Indians. In season the smell of fish is not entirely absent. Nothing has been said about the shacks for some months, the do-gooders having departed for another place.

Man's efforts to make a hero out of himself seldom convinces anyone else.

Poor Atom. Millions of dollars are being spent trying to smash it.

Scientists are working to determine the age of the earth. More valuable would be to determine how old its going to get.

"I would rather," said the old philosopher, "work every day than spend every day at recreation. The work is less expensive, less tiring and more pleasant as a steady thing."

Tish, tish. Walter Reuther, head of the CIO has had his gall bladder removed. Does that disqualify him for the job?

Congratulations to Paul Patterson on becoming governor. He has had enough experience to be governor and has the proper attitude toward public service.

A writer in the Oregon Journal's Sunday magazine mourns that Oregon has no lieutenant governor. They are as useful as a sore thumb being usually elected from second rate politicians who are willing to accept a job with no responsibilities other than presiding over the senate. State senators are conversant with state problems and are elected for that reason in large part. No state can expect good service from a man who is willing to sit still and wait; they can use one who is active.

We hope there's an end to that hair brained scheme to abduct Klamath basin water for use in southern California by damming the Klamath river and running it up the Trinity river and through a tunnel into the Sacramento valley. Oregon may expect better treatment from the federal government than that. And along the same vein the connection between Bonneville and California electric lines would help California more than Oregon in the long run.

Probably the social philosophy taught by the comic books isn't so bad although not much like that of McGuffey. And almost any sort of reading is alright to start on and will do for early practice but high school age youngsters prefer comic books to other reading have been retarded in that phase of their education and can't look forward to much future in the exercise of the mind. That's not so bad, either; despite the invention of the power shovel there is still room for some hard labor.

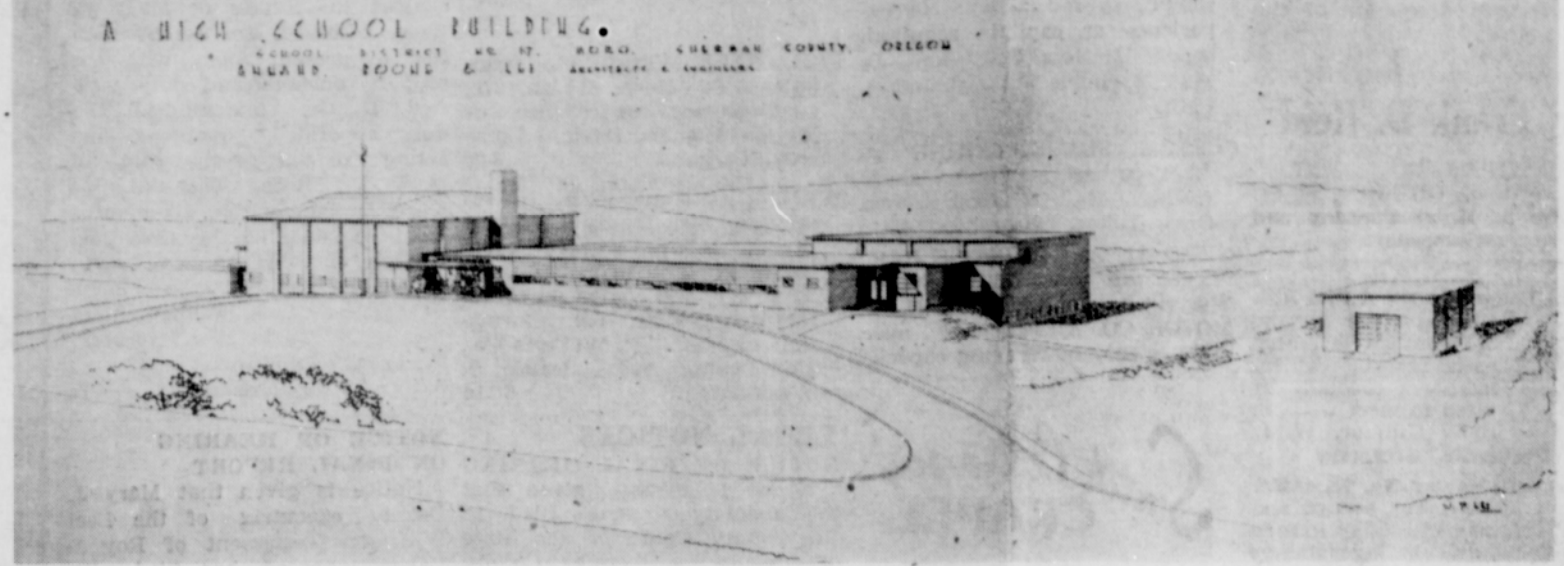
It is perfectly natural for Europe to worry about a reduction in gifts from the U. S. When we worry about it our mother complex shows.

As they get older a woman's waist line works up and a man's downs.

If a man will carefully check his ideas before he expresses them he will save his associates a lot of trouble—and sometimes deprive them of some fun.

Oddly enough we think it makes sense for John Lewis to contribute to the striking coal miners in Japan. The longer they strike the longer John's own crew can export coal.

Bids to Build Opened Tonight On School Dist. 17's New Building



Bids for construction of the the Moro district. Bonds of the building, classrooms will be at the right. The shop near the school building above will be \$310,000 were sold recently. in the lower part with many building is also shown. opened tonight by the board of the gym is the higher part of windows and the cafeteria is

Grange Installs Pomona Officers At Sunday Session

The state granges Sherman county deputy, Mrs. Rolland Johnson installed the following officers at Harlandview grange Sunday afternoon, in the order as stated. Rufus first, Harlandview grange, and the Harlandview juvenile grange.

Masters: Rolland Johnson, Earl Gentry and Steven Burnett. Overseers: Harland McDonald, Bernard Martin and Arnold Miller. Lecturers: Mrs. George Fox, Mrs. Bernard Martin and Kay Kirkelle. Steward: George Fox, Howard Ross and Tommie Higley. Assistant steward: William O'Brien, Ivan Kirkelle and George Miller. Chaplain: Mrs. Rolland Johnson. Mrs. Richard Bruckert and Eva Kirkelle. Treasurer: Mrs. Walter Morris (absent) Blaine Miller and Mavis Miller. Secretary: Mrs. Altee Wilson, Mrs. Charles Burnett and Mavis Miller. Gatekeeper: George Benson, Sam Brock and Everett Kirkelle. Ceres: Mrs. Ben Galloway, Mrs. George Benson and Jean Ross. Pomona: Mrs. Will Huck, Mrs. Orlov Martin and Wilma Gentry. Flora: Mrs. Grace Medler, Mrs. Ted Thompson and Sharon Belshe. Lady assistant steward: Mrs. Andy Engberg, Mrs. Ivan Kirkelle and Penny Higley. Executive committee: Altee Wilson, Curtis Neal and William Huck; Lewis Sathar, Charles Burnett and Dewey Thompson; Louis Miller, Jimmie Belshe and Kay Higley.

Preceding the work a delicious pot luck dinner was served. The tables had to be set twice as there were too many people for one time. Christmas decorations were also used for the tables.

Missionary Society Elects Maggie Barnum

The Moro Missionary society held its December meeting at the church with Mrs. Harry Pinkerton, Mrs. Ernest Eslinger and Mrs. Gladys Morrison as hostesses.

Mrs. Maggie Barnum presided at the business meeting. A decision was made to purchase silverware for the church dining room. Projects for the year were closed, with funds going to a new hospital in Palmer, Alaska. The "Piggy" bank was opened to be sent to the lepers mission work. Officers were elected: Mrs. Maggie Barnum, president; Mrs. Max Barzee, vice president; Mrs. Harry Pinkerton, secretary; Mrs. Ernest Eslinger, treasurer.

The program was directed by Mrs. Dewey Thompson, featuring the Christmas theme. Mrs. Alfred Solomon pleased with two solos accompanied by Mrs. Max Barzee. Christmas carols were sung by the group.

Gifts were exchanged and articles were brought to be sent to Korea. Dessert was served by the hostesses.

PMA MAKING CCC LOANS YET

The Sherman county PMA announces that CCC loans and purchase agreements are available on the 1952 crop wheat through January 31, 1953. The local PMA office to date has issued 581 loan applications on 1,959,262 bushels of wheat in the amount of \$4,247,520.

Telephone Rate Raise Asked By Company

Increases in residence telephone rates ranging from 10c to 75c a month are included in a general repricing application filed by Pacific Telephone Friday with Charles Heltzel, Oregon Public Utilities Commissioner. Inflation was cited as the major reason for the application by C. P. Horn, manager here.

For the state as a whole, the overall increase will amount to less than 3c a day per telephone or a little over \$320,000 per month. Of this amount the company would net less than half because of the federal income tax.

Rufus Wins From Moro By One Point

The Rufus high school students motored to Grass Valley Saturday evening for games with the Moro students. First, there was a game of volleyball which the Rufus girls won by one point. The score being 29 to 28. Then the boys played the Moro lads a game of basketball. At the quarter Rufus was ahead for a 10 to 6 score, but the rest of the time the game grew very exciting with first one team ahead and then the other one. At the whistle, Rufus was found ahead with one point. The score read 49 to 48.

PMA Schedules January Meetings

Frank von Borstel, chairman of the Sherman county PMA committee announced this week that the 1953 agricultural conservation practice sign-up will be held in the communities during the week by January 5. Meetings for this purpose will be held on the following days: January 5—Kent; January 6—Grass Valley; January 7—Moro; and January 8—Wasco and Locust Grove at Wasco. Community committeemen will be on hand to assist the farmers. Chairman von Borstel emphasized that due to changes in the program farmers must sign-up at these meetings with the aid of a committeeman in order to receive payment for conservation practices in 1953.

Schools Close For Christmas Holiday

Christmas vacation for the Moro grade and high school will be between December 22 and December 27. School will reopen December 28. Thursday, January 1 will be a school holiday. School will be held Friday, January 2. This shortened Christmas vacation will permit a full week of spring vacation beginning March 16.

Parker Wins Toss; Marvin Wins Liberty From City Job

John Parker will become city treasurer when the new city officials are sworn in next year. His tie with Robert Marvin, incumbent, was settled at the council meeting Tuesday night when mayor-elect Vernon Platt tossed a coin which turned to Parker's choice, heads.

Church Christmas Program Ready

This Sunday evening at 7:30 the Sunday school of Moro Community church will present its annual Christmas program. Children of the nursery and kindergarten departments will begin the program, led by Grace Busse, Eva Virtue and Florence Thompson. Boys and girls of junior and junior high age will be seen in the play, "The King Has Come". Under the general direction of Naomi Van Gilder and Nina Pinkerton this drama will retell the Christmas story. The first act will depict the shepherds on the hillside hearing the heavenly announcement, and the second act will portray the scene at the manger. Narrator is Ronnie Benson and music will be by Ruth Solomon. Organist will be Helen Sayts, and Russell Belshe is Sunday school superintendent.

White gifts (toys or non-perishable foods) will be brought by those present and placed under the tree, to be sent to a children's home. The community is cordially invited to attend and take part in this traditional time of Christmas worship.

WASCO ITEMS

A pre-Christmas dinner was served Sunday by Mr. and Mrs. Leo Watkins to Mr. and Mrs. John Buck of Moro, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Gosson and daughter Deborah of The Dalles, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Gosson, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Gosson and Mrs. Earle Morrison and family.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Johnson of Aloha are visiting a few days with their son and daughter in law Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Johnson. They arrived Saturday in time to attend the Rufus grange bazaar and dinner.

Dinner guests Tuesday evening of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Reid were Mr. and Mrs. Glen Wallace and children, Chuck, Glena, Jack, David and Jimmy, Miss Marlene Beem and Leonard Maurus. The dinner was in honor of Chuck who expects to leave early in January for the service. After dinner the group went to the ball game at the school.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Carey of Salem were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Watkins. The Wasco town team came to Rufus Friday night and beat the Rufus town team in a game of basketball.

New Contract Made Between Farmers, Rainers

The contract between Tri-County Weather Research and North American Weather Consultants was re-negotiated at a meeting in Condon, Friday. The new contract calls for reduced payments which directors of the weather research feel that county organizations will be able to meet in each county. The contract calls for a total flat fee of \$22,500.00 which is made in five equal payments throughout the year.

The cloud seeding program will be reduced to ten months, eliminating the months of July and August. No other change is contemplated. Cloud seeding will be conducted by ground generators and an airplane whenever an opportunity exists. A graduate meteorologist will be stationed in the area throughout the year.

Generators Working

At present twelve ground generators and one airplane generator are stationed in, and adjacent to area which comprises all of Sherman, Gilliam and Morrow counties. Generators were operating during the recent storms which brought more than one inch of rainfall to most sections.

Complete cooperation has been obtained between all cloud seeding groups operating in the vicinity and every effort is being made to seed the area in accordance with the more scientific methods available, today according to Fritz Watkins, president of the Tri-County group. The project is being evaluated by three Oregon State college meteorologists D. Fred Decker, John Day and Russell Lincoln. Robert Beaumont who evaluated the project for the past two years has been called back into the navy.

Recent rumors that the operations had been discontinued were false, Watkins said.

Christmas Traditions Told To Club

Rev. Alfred Solomon told club members Wednesday about Christmas and the reasons for many of the customs surrounding it. Definite date of the birth of Jesus is not known, he said, but the holiday is celebrated near that date of the winter solstice because there has always been celebration of that time. Early Christmas took over the Roman saturnalia, a holiday of moral abandon, and using its good part made it a holiday of sanctity.

The use of mistletoe came from Germany, probably from Martin Luther, and Santa Claus grew from good works of St. Nicholas, who lived to the east of church headquarters at Rome. He was a thin, pious man, not the fat jolly character idolized in America.

Lloyd Johnson asked for continued support of the Boy Scouts. Vernon Platt wanted a community Christmas tree and support of the March of Dimes campaign. The club voted to make community objection to the proposed rate raise in telephone service. Next meeting will be held January 7 when new officers will be nominated.

German Girls Want To Come To Moro; Work In Payment

Three girls from Ludwigsburg, Germany have written to the Oberburgermeister (mayor) of the city of Moro to inquire if anyone in Moro or thereabouts would like to sponsor one of them so they could come to America. They would gladly work to pay for the expense.

To quote, "our ages are 25, 21 and 18 years respectively. We would be very glad, if we could find work in an American household, where we could have the possibility of working hard, to earn back the cost of our journey from Germany to the states."

The girls enclosed pictures which show them as good looking young women. How they chose Moro is not known although some soldier from Moro might be able to explain.

Translation of the letter was made by Mrs. Dean Fuller who will translate a reply to the girls and letters of anyone interested. Sponsors must show financial ability to prevent the immigrants from becoming public charges.

VFW Get Together For Christmas Party

The Sherman county VFW and auxiliary had a Christmas party Monday evening. A colored movie "Something to be Proud Of" was shown describing one boy's life in the VFW National Home. Marvin I. Howell of Wasco was presented with a citation from National Commander James W. Cothran, honoring him for his aid as a citizen to the Sherman county post and auxiliary.

Premium Due On Crop Insurance

The Sherman county PMA office has been notified by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation that all Sherman county wheat farmers who have had federal insurance during the past year will receive a premium discount of 30 percent on their premium for 1953. Policyholders received a similar excess reserve discount in 1952.

BAZAAR SUCCESSFUL

The bazaar which the Rufus grange Home Ec. club had planned for weeks, was held Saturday night. More than a hundred people were served the scrumptious roast turkey with dressing, pumpkin pie with whipped cream and all the trimmings, dinner. The tables were tastefully decorated with Christmas motifs upon white cloths. Christmas decorations were also used about the room.

Robert Davis won the quilt by guessing the closest number of beans in the quart jar. There was a post office, grab bag, country store and fancy work. Over this part of the hall was draped red and green crepe paper streamers to form a canopy. A background of red and green paper on the wall and white covered tables where the items were displayed.

One roast turkey was left from the dinner so it was auctioned off with Leo Watkins the highest bidder. After dinner bingo was played until the prizes were gone. The net proceeds are not in yet, but the club was well pleased with the results.

PETERS PERFECT

During the past week five men have accomplished the impossible at Camp Roberts, California.

In training for infantry combat, these five men entered the mortar range, received the usual instruction on the 60mm mortar and all fired perfect scores on the final test. Firing a "possible" on the mortar range is roughly like pitching a no-hit ball game at Yankee stadium. There can be no mistakes.

These five mortarmen who have good reason to be proud of their ability are: Private Reuben Tamiriz, Central, New Mexico, Private Edwin E. Johnson, Heavener, Oklahoma, Private Herman Peters, Grass Valley, Oregon, Private Phillip J. Engelgan, Troutdale, Oregon, and Private J. C. Day, Austin, Texas, all members of "D" company, 31st medium Tank Battalion, Camp Roberts, Calif.

Tax Problems Aired At Meeting On Appraisals

A start toward reappraisal of Sherman county property was made here Friday of last week when about 30 property owners met at the court house at the invitation of the Land Economics committee to hear state and local tax officials.

Dewey Thompson as chairman told of a previous meeting to hear Alex Currie, Gilliam county assessor, tell of what that county had done. He also said that as far as land values were concerned the assessments between wheat counties was fairly even.

Sam Stewart, state tax commissioner in charge of ad valorem taxes, said that the idea of reappraisal was old although the present effort to achieve it came from a legislative act of 1949 and a larger appropriation in 1951. The tax commission, he said, has a duty to equalize taxes and to aid assessors with assessments. "Assessors do not make taxes; they equalize them. Budget committees make taxes," said the commissioner.

He mentioned the difficulty with personal property taxes and said that personal property is hard to assess and hard to classify for assessment. A review of livestock ratios showed that cattle were assessed at a ratio of 24 percent of true cash value, hogs 36, horses 60 and sheep 21 in Oregon this year. The commission is issuing some guides for assessors, he said.

Dr. Waldo Carlson, land appraiser with the tax commission, told of surveys made in eastern Oregon counties. He placed wheat land with a production average of 25 bushels and above at 100, land producing 20-24 bushels at 85, land producing 14-16 bushels at 60 and land producing 7-12 bushels at 30 and said that sales indicated that these figures were about correct. His chart made no attempt to classify land in any way but production but he did say that distance from market, kind of road, etc. would effect value.

Harry Loggan, chief appraisal engineer for the commission said that the commission wants to work with counties on a co-operative basis with the county furnishing some of the men and money. Better yet, would it be if the county did its own appraisal with the aid of its citizens. The commission tries to change state ratios gradually and has been reducing them in line with increasing values. (Ratios are set between counties in an effort to equalize possible state property taxes and to establish a base for equitable taxation of utilities which are assessed by the state tax commission.)

Clair Balzer, assessor, said that this year personal property was assessed locally at 55 percent of true cash value, buildings at 36 percent and land at about 25, but that it would be different next time when he had gained more experience.

Some questions were asked and the group agreed to ask the county court to appoint a committee to work and advise the assessor and any others who did reappraisal work in this county.

Ten Biggest Taxpayers Mostly Local

American liking for the largest, longest, oldest, etc., extends to taxpaying so there is always interest in the largest taxpayers which the sheriff compiles each year for inquisitive firms or persons.

This year the largest property taxpayers are: Union Pacific \$48,141.96; Moro Grain Growers, \$7,750.26; Pacific Power & Light \$7,466; Mary Baker, \$5,941.44; Sherman Coop Grain Growers \$5,772.26; Pacific Tel & Tel \$5,371.36; Grass Valley Grain Growers \$3,917.35; L. E. Kaseberg \$3,883.64; Frank von Borstel \$3,378.58; E. E. Kaseberg \$3,200.22.

COLLECTOR COMING

The federal collector on internal revenue has announced dates for agents to be in the counties of Oregon. One will be at the courthouse in Moro on January 7 to help farmers make out 1040ES, their declaration of estimated revenue.