

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
NATIONAL EDITORIAL
ASSOCIATION
Oregon
1952
NEWSPAPER
PUBLISHERS
ASSOCIATION
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
ONE YEAR \$2.00
JANUARY 2, 1953

SHERMAN COUNTY 1953

The making of resolutions at the beginning of a new year more often causes amusement than reformation when the reaction of friends is taken into account. There is no way that a county can make New Year's resolutions and there is no evidence that Sherman county wants to make any. Nevertheless a little consideration of the possibilities of the county is not amiss.

Sherman county is a very fine wheat county. About 440 sections of land are used for that purpose and production has been very good for the past 13 years. As long as the moisture continues to be some two inches greater than it was in the 1930s it is likely that production will continue to be good. The price has been good because of wars and the decision of the federal government to feed foreign nations in the post-war period. Without war or governmental generosity the present price cannot be continued. The wheat league recognized this fact this month.

Of these 440 sections of wheat land 55 are infected with morning glory, a perennial weed. Some other weeds are getting a hold here also. The production of good crops of wheat on land filled with morning glory is not impossible, but it is very improbable under normal moisture conditions. Conversation has not been found to be a successful eradicator of morning glory and unless the county court uses the power that it has under the state weed law morning glory will continue to spread. Farmers have asked for more action time after time.

Sherman is a good stock county. Comparatively few cattle are grown and by comparatively few farmers. The federal tax situation is probably the most important reason for this lack of use of available feed and time. There are almost no swine or sheep and the same reason applies although the cost of feeding hogs is high at present wheat prices. We barely raise enough chickens to keep us in eggs and turkeys are imported although the climate is advantageous for both.

Farmers are prosperous and independent, the terms being synonymous to a marked degree.

Construction of The Dalles dam and the probable construction of a big aluminum plant at that city will have an effect on the economy of Sherman county that cannot now be foretold although there might well be some speculation about it. There will be demand for meat, animals, vegetables, fruits and eggs that this county could help supply if the farmers chose to engage in such production. There will probably be a greater labor demand than usual for farmers to consider. There will be a greater tendency for The Dalles to concentrate on its new citizens and Sherman county, now a goodly part of business for that city, will take a secondary role.

As for roads and schools and other public improvements, Sherman county can build any that its citizens want and without serious tax drains on the producers. Sherman countians can have as much or as little as they desire of public works or private buildings. Money is not the limiting factor; it is inertia or habit or an ingrained conservatism, bred in the dark days of the 1930s. Sherman county tax money has built some very fine buildings in Washington and Salem.

There is no reason to think that the county will change from its conservatism, certainly not in a brief time. Yet, the use of all machinery aids to good farming indicates that change is welcomed when it brings ease or increased income. The county has a great many organizations but few with a major interest in public matters. More would be valuable.

What's going to happen in 1953. Nothing if we can help it.

THE DRAFT

News that the army will take 53,000 men in February as a start toward building up the numbers of soldiers is more of a shock than it is a surprise. Enlistment of those who were into the service for the Korean war will end soon and men will be needed to replace them.

We are disappointed that the new administration does not seem inclined to amend the draft law or to accept the idea of universal service long advocated by the American Legion.

There is a place in the armed service that almost anyone could fill who is able to work in civilian life. Evasion of service by husky athletes for some minor ailment, petty excuses of employment are so often faked that the draft is in disrepute—and it should be.

While it must seem terribly inconvenient for young men to go to the army, the life time effect on those who stay out is often worse. Under universal service there would be exemptions and no later regrets.

ABOUT NEWSPAPERS

It is not entirely talking shop to consider the plight of the newspapers and this time we mean the big dailies. Weekly papers have much less of a labor problem and small dailies seem not so pinched as do the large ones.

Big newspapers are now reducing the width of their columns in order to save paper; the once standard 12 em (two inches) has been cut in some cases to 10 1/2 em. The change doesn't make reading easier although it does permit slightly smaller type.

Newspapers have the duty of reporting the news and they do it very well. In order to gain readers they also publish a lot of material that might more properly be found in a magazine and in order to make their sheets indispensable they print features including the misnamed comics.

The problem looks like this, from what we hope is a safe distance, that cutting the width of the columns saving the paper and all the economies possible will be exhausted pretty soon. Then will there have to be restriction of the news, curtailment of features or something else?

Already the news is written as briefly as possible and a news story must be very important to be given a column, yet much more space is given to background information on foreign countries or interesting personalities. News, original purpose of a newspaper, is more closely written than are the features and the comics still have their allotment of white space.

How long can the tail wag the dog?

NEED FOR A SILLY SEASON

It may sound odd to infer that our civilization is so serious that some silliness would be useful. Really there is lots of silliness in this country, much more than women's hats which sometimes take the brunt of criticism.

The magazines, though, and the newspapers print page after page of what is supposed to be serious stuff that is just a few lines of stuff that is silly. Or maybe—and this may be the truth—we are unable to recognize what is silly and what isn't. There may be a real cosmic joke that we do not recognize.

A few examples come to mind. Someday our generation may be considered silly to judge education by the number of years spent getting it; it may at some later date be thought foolish to pay for labor by the hour instead of the accomplishment; making divorce difficult may be found no cure for marital troubles; 150 horsepower may be excessive to move a 150 pound man from place to place.

Maybe we need first a season in which to search for silliness before we start in to enjoy it.

GRASS VALLEY NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Oestrich of Ritzville, Washington announce the marriage of their daughter, Genevieve Mae, to John W. Massie of the U.S. Air Force Friday, December 23, at the Trinity Methodist church in Ritzville.

The reception for the young couple was held at the home of the bride's parents immediately following the ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Oestrich and family were former residents of Grass Valley.

Word was received here recently of the death of Mrs. C.M. Clevenger at Yakima, Washington, December 19. Mr. and Mrs. Clevenger were former residents of Grass Valley, when he had the Standard Oil Station.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilke of Bingen, Wash., came Christmas eve and spent Christmas day with his sister, Mrs. C. R. Andersen and son Dennis.



FOUR DIE IN JET BOMBER CRASH . . . A great ball of smoke, reminiscent of the A-bomb mushroom, rises from the wreckage of the B-45 jet bomber that crashed at the Lockbourne air force base in Columbus, killing the four men aboard. The aircraft apparently encountered mechanical difficulty in the takeoff. The big jet swerved from the runway and burst into flames as the landing gear collapsed. Plane was on routine flight.



ITALIAN STAR . . . Myriam Petacel will soon return to the Italian screen. She is a sister of Claretta Petacel, who died at the hands of an Italian mob with Benito Mussolini in the closing days of World War II. Her screen name is Myriam of San Servolo.

MILK GOING UP

Dairy product prices are likely to be higher in 1953, but meat prices will continue down, according to agricultural economists of the Oregon State college extension service.

Milk production may increase a little next year but is not expected to keep pace with population growth and strong buying power. Economist M. D. Thomas points out in the latest issue of "Oregon Agricultural Situation and Outlook". Copies of the circular may be obtained from county agents or OSC.

Thomas believes consumers will continue to shift from butter to lower priced substitutes but will increase their demand for dairy products in fluid form or as cheese. He says these trends are recognized by dairymen who are adjusting to changing market demands by shifting from fat to milk production.

The Outlook notes that a record supply of beef is now on its way to market and should keep coming in larger amounts at lower prices for several years. Cattle and calf slaughter in another three to five years could be 40 percent greater than this year's kill.

However, beef prices, in the long run will depend largely on employment and consumer income, according to the economist.

"Consumers have shown that they would pay high prices for beef when they have jobs and are working hard," Thomas says.

The OSC specialists believe a farm flock of sheep offer better promise for using native pasture and other cheap forage than do cattle. High cost of labor is continuing as a serious obstacle to range sheep.



YOUR HISTORY SCRAPBOOK

By Dr. Dan E. Clark Emeritus of History, University of Oregon.

No. 2 Question: What Errors Relieve Stimulate Early Exploration of the North Pacific Coast?

For nearly two hundred years beginning in the latter part of the sixteenth century, there was a persistent belief in the existence of a "Strait of Anian" or Northwest Passage, by which it was possible to sail from the Atlantic to the Pacific or vice-versa, north of the North American continent. This belief was based on, and perpetuated by, a number of fictitious narratives of voyages through this non-existent channel in 1588, 1592, and 1640. The only one of these accounts that deserves any attention is that in which Michael Lok, an English merchant, related and partially made up a story told him in Venice by one Juan de Fuca, who was in reality a Greek by the name of Apostolos Valerianos. According to Lok's narrative Juan de Fuca told him that while on a voyage from Mexico in 1592 he had discovered and entered the Strait of Anian located between 47 and 48 degrees north latitude. Whether or not there was any truth whatever in this story, the name of Juan de Fuca was later given to a strait in approximately the latitude indicated. Because these fictitious narratives were believed to be authentic they helped to stimulate voyages of exploration up the Pacific Coast by Spanish and later by English sea captains up to the time of the American Revolution, until James Cook, a great English navigator, proved in 1778 that there was no such passage.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Nisbet and family of Kennewick, Wn., and Mrs. Gerald Nisbet and family. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Gosson and Bud Nisbet were dinner guests of their parents Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Nisbet on Christmas day. Bud is home from school at Klamath Falls for the vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Nisbet are parents of a baby daughter Nancy Jane, born December 17. She weighed 6 pounds. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Harry Rrake of Bend and Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Nisbet.

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Wasco News

Christmas dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Drinkard and family were his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Drinkard, and her mother Mrs. Sylvia Bichel of Dufur and her brother in law and sister's family Mr. and Mrs. Dale Howell and children, Phil, Larry, Jimmy, Kathie, Linda and Mark, of Dufur. Mrs. Howell, Mark and Linda, remained the rest of the week.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Wallace made a rush trip to The Dalles Sunday evening to take the furnace motor from the Hotel Sherman in to be repaired. The hotel was without heat part of Sunday and Monday.

Miss Carol Pace of Spokane, arrived Tuesday to spend her Christmas vacation with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Engberg.

Christmas holiday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Wallace and family were their married children Mr. and Mrs. Dan Glenz of Wallula, Wn., Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wallace and daughters Debbie and Helen and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Decker and children of The Dalles and Miss Marlene Beem.

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Mr. and Mrs. Clarke and daughter Phyllis Rivard who formerly lived at Twin Bridges are now at home in Rufus at the house owned by Fay Brackett.

Eureka Lodge No. 121 A.F. & A.M. Meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings each month. Visiting members cordially invited to meet with us. Robert Belshe, W. M. H. B. Pinkerton, Secretary

Bethlehem Chapter No. 78 O.E.S. Meets every second and fourth Thursday in each month; visiting members invited. Moro, Oregon. Bonnie May, W. M. Gwen Ross, 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. Floyd Lane, N. G. Leo Watkins, Secretary

Lupine Rebekah Lodge No. 118 Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Visiting members welcome. Josephine Gentry, N.G. Helen Martin, Sec.

ty. \$15 to \$20 a day. No experience or capital required. Write McNess Co. Dept. B, 2423 Magnolia St., Oakland 7, Calif.

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FOR SALE: Tamarack fence posts 6 ft. 25c & 6 1/2 ft. 27c; good gravel road. See or Write Homer Davis, Lone-rock, Oregon. 6-9c

WANTED: Man with car to service 800 family Watkins Route. Above average earnings for right man. If you have car and good local references, write for information to The J. R. Watkins Co., 137 Dexter Ave., Seattle 9, Washington. 6-11c

LEGAL NOTICES

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 her Final Report and Account as Administratrix of the estate of Kenneth W. Blau, deceased, and that Saturday, January 17, 1953, at ten o'clock A. M. of said day, at the County Court-house, at Moro, Oregon, has been fixed by the Court as the time and place for hearing of objections to said Final Report and Account and the settlement of said estate.

Margaret Blau Attorney for Administratrix

Want Ads

FOR SALE: Queen stock tank heaters \$45.00. Ranch and Home Store, Moro. 9c

There will be a Child Health Clinic in Moro, Friday, January 30, if enough people are interested to warrant it. Call 829 for appointments.

CUSTOM SLAUGHTERING — Meat cutting, wrapping, sharp freeze. C & C Food Store, Grass Valley, Oregon. 47-tfn

WANTED: Man with car to call on farmers in Sherman coun-

Thankyou for your generous patronage and a Happy New Year to all Store will be closed until January 20 GAY SHOP WASCO, OREGON

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THE DALLES BRANCH the U.S. NATIONAL BANK Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

AN OREGON BANK SERVING OREGON

Smith Callaway CHAPEL

Funeral Advisors and directors LEONARD R. SMITH Phone The Dalles 3135

LOSES TO RITA . . . French singer Fernanda Montel is the former constant escort of Spanish Count Jose Villapaderna who is currently squiring Rita Hayworth.