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Giles L. French Editor  
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NEW YEARS

The first of each year is a traditional time for individuals and institutions and governments to cast up balances in an effort to estimate how they are doing. Most often the interest is in the financial statement and that has been so generally pleasant in these parts that it might be well to make an appraisal of social matters.

It is the county of which we speak for the balance sheet of each person is his own affair but everyone can be interested in his county. Everyone must be interested in it for lack of interest therein permits laxities that seriously affect personal matters.

For example, every farm in Sherman county would be worth more if there was a school system in the county that provided standard elementary and grade courses without questioning by the state department of education. We barely squeak by and often that is by the generosity or lack of assured power by the state.

There is some inclination to improve the situation and it is not believed that there would be legal complications if the entire county was the tax base for the planned new buildings. A county high school would soon remove the local prejudices that were engendered 60 years ago, which seems long enough for any prejudices to last among neighbors. Perhaps the greatest social gain the county could achieve would be to build a county high school.

A rural county always has a road program. Whether the roads are dirt or hard-top the problem remains for better roads is a movement that goes on forever, or has for generations. Some improvement in policy has been made in Sherman county about roads. The purchase of a rock crusher, after what seemed interminable argument, together with a plan for building better roads is a step forward after the years of light gravel coatings on rural roads. But there will be a road problem next year, and the next. It is good to see it being partially solved for that, too, is a social gain.

Improvements are being made to many farms but the surprising thing is there hasn't been more. Cost of improvements is deductible from income tax and Uncle Sam would have paid for miles of fence, new sheds and work shops had they been made. More dams could have been built to hold water for stock and grain storage could have been provided. The problem of tenancy of which we have too much complicates improvement.

We have done well in crop production, marvelously well. The 1953 crop was the 14th straight year of above average production, a record far beyond the expectations of the most optimistic back in the early forties. It has gone on so long that many young men now farming have reason to think that God and government will rain their blessing on them forever; that moisture will always fall in abundance and surpluses will never become unmanageable. Hope, of course, often persists long after reason.

This county, right now, at this very date, January 1, 1954, probably contains more money in available form than ever before and perhaps for some time to come. It has had tremendous crops and a war-time price eight years after the end of the war for which it was designed. There are few land mortgages, almost no personal property mortgages on farm chattels, there is money in the banks, millions of dollars of it. Despite some glaring examples of conspicuous consumption the farmers have used their funds in good ways and seem to be inclined to keep some for an un-rainy day and year. That is economic wisdom.

Socially we are not so much a unit as we were in the thirties when every friend was a friend in need and therefore a friend indeed. It has been found increasingly hard to keep any civic organization going in the county and many public matters have suffered therefore. There are things that individuals cannot do, however, wealthy. Group action, community action, county soli-

arity is occasionally needed. Who will make the membership cannot be foretold? Young farmers have the time and ability if they could and would transfer some of their energy to civic affairs from personal affairs.

There are many things to be done. Highway 97 is being improved and could soon be connected with Washington by a bridge across the Columbia with wise urging; there still may be a battle to retain the Moro experiment station at present status; changes will soon come in transportation that will concern everyone. There are dozens of problems. Larger population centers often have problems thrust upon them while small communities may be by-passed unless they are alert.

Man does not live by bread alone; nor can a community develop by production alone. We can be more effective and more socially and politically important if we will but try.

McCarthyism  
Senator Joe McCarthy is worried about communists in government and he doesn't mind using that fear to increase his headline rating. Criticism doesn't bother him measurably for a senator can almost always gain more votes by a headline than he can lose by loss of a friend. Wholesale versus retail, as it were.

Recent appraisals of the senator indicate that a majority of the citizens of this country think that what he is doing is pretty near right and that any effort to roust communists out of government is worthy of support.

The self-styled liberals (who seldom are) are worried about McCarthy and for the life of us we can't tell whether he or they are in greater need of psychoanalysis. McCarthy seems to have the simplest case. Whether he is really afraid of communists or not his actions bring him headlines which are to a senator as whiskey to a toper. He has an understandable ground for his operations.

His opponents do not dare to criticize his hatred of communists so they say his methods are wrong and that he doesn't actually dig up many communists. Both charges have about them a good bit of validity. The difficulty is that these do not seem to be the real reasons behind the opposition. Some of them act as if they were motivated by fear that McCarthy may dig up some error they may have committed back in the days when this nation was an official friend of Russia and communists were coddled in the White House.

In theory it is proper enough to criticize McCarthy if it were felt that he was trying to restrict freedom of thought because America stands for the principle that man can think anything that he wants to and advocate anything that seems reasonable to him. We defend the right to be wrong having established our nation at a time when free thinking was rampant in Europe. But there is nothing in American philosophy that keeps a man from taking the responsibility for wrong thinking, or the blame for its effects.

Many of those who froth at the mouth on mention of McCarthy act like they feared to take the responsibility for their communistic flirtation. And opposition to McCarthy, in that case, comes from fear more than it comes from love of the American ideal of freethinking. That is the weakness of many who rail at McCarthyism.

RAIN

It probably used to rain like this when grandpa was a boy in this country but grandpa doesn't remember it. Maybe it is because rain is considered a pleasant experience among wheat growers and pleasant things are forgotten quicker than pain. Drouth is pain to a wheatgrower.

There was the fall of 1893 when it rained so long and so hard that wheat sprouted in the stacks and when it was threshed it caked in the sacks and farmers trying to recoup their loss resacked the grain and put some of the spoiled wheat in the center of the sack. The scheme didn't work because grain buyers equipped themselves with long prods.

Grandpa remembers that, because it was very painful and many a farmer had nothing to show for his year's work. There have been times of drouth when the broad blue sky had no vestige of a cloud for weeks and months and the wheat stood still in the fields and produced nothing.

The records do show that it is raining more now than in the past although there is no promise that it won't change any day and bring back the brassy skies of drouth again.

Rain in moderate quantities on a freshly sown crop and unfrozen ground is a remarkably heartening thing even if mixed with a little snow. This rain is going in to the ground where it can do some good so it is a pleasant experience.

DEAN WALKER

State Senator Dean Walker of Independence, whose death shocked his friends and all who have been interested in state government, has held an important place in the senate for years. Because of his long membership on both the ways and means and taxation committees the work of those bodies was coordinated to a degree greater than in most states. It gave vast power to a small group of long-time legislators. There is doubt in the minds of many as to whether it was beneficial to the state or not.

Senator Walker was an aristocrat, with the strengths and weaknesses of one. His knowledge was greater than the average and he worked harder. Generally he was for economy, not always; he cared for higher education with a generous hand.

Near the close of each session it was Walker who drew up the final plan and obtained acceptance of it by personal interviews with other members who had been working with appropriations and taxes. His plans were usually adopted although changes were often made before announcement was made to the general membership. His role was that of a coordinator and one who made the first over-all plan and he would once change after the plan was once stated.

Senator Walker was a conservative and he worked steadily to keep some funds on hand for possible losses in the state's income. Yet, he didn't want too large a fund and by the "Walker plan" caused a decrease in income taxes when it would have been easy to build up a huge surplus.

The Oregon legislature has been an expensive body and for session after session has been spending more money than the state has taken in. The tendency should have been stopped long ago. Legislative leadership has been riding with the tide, an easy and political thing to do. What course it will take in 1955 cannot be foretold but it will have trouble finding a leader with the ability to point a course and make it appear the only reasonable one since Dean Walker has departed.

PROFITS OR TAXES

If American industry wants to live up to its boasts of recent times it will have an opportunity when the excess profits tax dies a natural death next month.

The excess profits tax was passed to raise funds during the Korean war and had a limitation in time. That has not been changed. Some of the more prosperous firms have been paying as much as 30 percent over the usual corporation rate of 53 percent. The large corporations have been paying about 75 percent of their net incomes to the federal government.

That has been given as a direct cause for high prices—and it sounds reasonable. If industry wants to prove its case that it aims to sell as cheap as possible in order to obtain wide distribution and the benefits of large production we can look for some nice reductions in prices next January. If industry would rather take the cash and let the credit go we can look for re-enactment of an excess profits tax.

The Optimist assumes that praise of W. S. Nelson by this newspaper was admission of error in a former editorial which doubted that enough suckers could be found to finance the bridge or enough traffic to pay for it. Retention of that doubt makes the feat of building it a greater tribute to Mr. Nelson's and the county's indefatigability.

BENSON'S ARTICLE

Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra T. Benson is adopting a tried and true method of getting his ideas before the public. He writes for newspapers. Herewith is the first of two articles by Mr. Benson giving some information about agriculture direct from the best informed source.

By Ezra Taft Benson

This nation has a serious farm problem.

It does not affect agriculture alone. It is everybody's problem. Today your government has approximately \$5 billions of your money invested in farm commodities.

You own outright more than \$2.5 billions worth of wheat, corn, cotton and other surplus farm products. You have outstanding loans on agricultural commodities totaling about the same amount. This figure is growing daily.

You are paying more than \$14 millions each month just to store these surpluses. This bill is growing, too, as additional inventories are accumulated by your government.

The losses which your government sustained in disposing of just a small portion of your holdings during the first three months of this fiscal year amounted to \$47 millions.

But, you ask, don't we have a farm program designed to insure agricultural prosperity and prevent the very situation we find ourselves in today?

The answer is that we are operating under the same farm program we had last year and for several previous years. Actually we have strengthened it in several important respects to permit farmers to take broader advantage of its provisions. Existing legislation binds us to a continuation of price supports at 90 percent of parity on basic commodities through the 1954 crop year.

Nevertheless, farm prices have declined steadily from the record peaks established under the impetus of the Korean war in February, 1951. During the 12 months immediately before I became Secretary of Agriculture, the farm price parity ratio slid from 113 to 95 percent. Since February of this year, prices have been more stable than in 1952, averaging about 93 percent of parity.

This story of declining farm income and mounting agricultural surpluses is the best evidence that our present program is not functioning effectively.

For more than a decade, our farmers have been producing under pressure. To meet the war-time needs of ourselves and our allies, they turned out record amounts of food and fiber between 1941 and 1946. With the end of the second World War, they were asked to provide the commodities required in the rehabilitation of Europe and other sections of the earth. Then came the Korean war, with new and heavy demands for farm goods of all kinds.

Suddenly this situation was radically altered. World food production had been climbing since 1946. By 1952 this was exerting strong pressure in the market places. Our wheat exports dropped by one-third in a single year, and had importing nations increased their own production, but they found that they could supply their reduced needs at lower prices from exporting countries which had no farm price support programs.

Just as many American consumers have turned from butter to less expensive spreads, so have other nations sought cheaper wheat, cotton and other products. We have learned through some bitter experience that when the farmer is in trouble, there is likely to be trouble ahead for everybody. This year, net farm income is expected to be nearly \$1 billion less than it was in 1952. And in 1952 it was more than \$1 billion below the preceding year. While farm income has been dropping, our total national income has actually increased.

This disparity cannot continue in an economy such as ours. When the farmer can't buy the products of industry, there are certain to be serious dislocations. How we got into this situation is not as important, at the moment as what we propose to do about it. I have outlined here some of the major problems facing agriculture. In a subsequent article, I should like to discuss some of the possible solutions.

Rufus Personals

Mrs. George Fox

The Community Pinochle club will meet Monday January 11 at the home of Mrs. Pat Macnab in Wasco.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Morris had 31 relatives at their home for Christmas dinner. Six were unable to attend on account of illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Johnson had for Christmas dinner guests Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Johnson and their son and daughter in law, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Johnson Jr. and family and Mrs. Lola Foster.

The Rufus church of the Nazarene presented its Christmas program Monday night. The congregation sang Joy to the World; Rev. Willis Barney, invocation; "Welcome Wish" Cheryl Smith; "Little Baby Jesus", Phil Tate; "Give Him Your Heart", Patty and Jimmy Thompson; "Away In a Manger", primary class; "The Savior's Birthday, Shirley Morris; a play "Jesus' Birthday Gift" Nadine Grant, Wyla Jean Barney, Mary Tate, Joan Brackett; "A Jolly Reason", Joyce Carlisle, a song, "Jesus Pambina" Dottie Steward; "Happy Birthday Dear Jesus" Billy Meyers; "My Gift" Lorna Liacos; Kathleen Tate, a recitation; song, "Like a Christmas Candle" Mary Tate and Wyla Jean Barney; "Christmas Symbols", Margaret Reid; "Christmas Round the World" Nadine Grant; Christmas stories by Linda Byrd; Carol Medley by the youth choir; "Try It", Wayne Liacos; "Christmas Snowflakes", Monya Neal; Carol Medley, youth choir with vibrabarp; "Christmas Wishes" Loren and Bobby Byrd; Melvin Grant, a recitation; "Christmas Carols" Donna Mae Hansen; song "A Gift So Wonderful", Mrs. Paul Blackburne and Patty Blackburne; song "Holy Night", Audrey Blackburne; play "The Displaced Christmas", Catherine Tom, Mrs. Willis Barney, Willis Barney, Audrey Blackburne, Elaine Eaton, Valerie Liacos; "There's A Song in the Air", Mrs. Perry; "Goodnight, Merry Christmas", Sandra Carlisle; "Oh Come All Ye Faithful" by all and benediction by Rev. Willis Barney. Then treats were passed out to all present.

The Rufus school had its annual Christmas program Wednesday evening at the school gym. "Twins" by Ron and John DeFigh twin sons of Mr. and Mrs. John DeFigh, principal of Rufus school. Play, "Music for Santa" by the grade students, queen Valerie Liacos, jester Joan Brackett, pages, Leon Brock and Steve Belloni, Kings Bob Byrd and David and Douglas Reid; jumping jacks first and second grades, snowballs third, fourth and fifth grade girls, manger singers first and second grades, virgin Gloria Christopherson, Joseph Joel Neal, shepherd Lauren Byrd, angels Carolyn Tom and Nadine Grant; Douglas Medler recited "Complaint to Santa Claus"; play "What'll We Give Dad" seventh and eighth grades; Carolyn Tom a recitation; high school gave a radio play "Miracle of 34th St.". After that Santa appeared with treats for all.

The youth installation team of Springwater grange at Clackamas came to Rufus grange Sunday afternoon to install the Sherman county officers. A 1 o'clock pot luck was served to nearly 80. Christmas decorations made the hall attractive. The master Tony Varitz was present to see the installing team do their work. Master Ellen Hodkins, installing officer Joe Guttridge, chaplain Carol Fredricks, marshalls Nancy Tucker and Betty Carnes, emble bearer Gilbert Shibley, regalia bearer Elwin Shibley and youth leader Jim Smith installed masters Roland Johnson pomona, Harland McDonald Rufus, Clarence Higley Harlandview and Tommy Higley juvenile at Harlandview; overseers Dewey Thompson pomona, Roland Johnson Rufus, Leo Paul Harlandview, Steven Burnett juvenile at Harlandview; lecturers Mrs. Geo. Fox pomona, Mrs. Harry Adams Rufus, Mrs. Geo. Benson Harlandview Wilma Gentry juvenile at Harlandview; stewards Walter Bruckert pomona, Geo. Fox Rufus, Earl Gentry Harlandview, (not present) and George Miller juvenile Harlandview; assistant stewards Charles Burnett pomona and Harlandview, Bill O'Brien Rufus, Arnold Miller juvenile at Harlandview; not present; chaplains Mrs. Louis Sather pomona Mrs. Roland Johnson Rufus, Mrs. Orlow Martin Harlandview (not present) Kay Higley juvenile at Harlandview; treasurers Mrs. Sam Brock pomona, Mrs. Walter Morris Rufus Blaine Miller Harland-

view; secretaries Mrs. Harland McDonald pomona, Mrs. Atlee Wilson Rufus, Mrs. Louis Sather Harlandview Mavis Miller juvenile at Harlandview; gatekeepers, Louis Sather pomona, Curtis Neal Rufus (not present) George Benson Harlandview, Gary Thompson juvenile at Harlandview; Ceres Mrs. Atlee Wilson pomona, Mrs. Geo. Fox Rufus, Mrs. Dewey Thompson Harlandview and Cheryl Christopherson juvenile at Harlandview; Pomona Mrs. Bill Huck pomona and Rufus, Mrs. Richard Bruckert Harlandview, Ellen Paul juvenile at Harlandview; Flora, Mrs. Dewey Thompson pomona, Mrs. Dean Reynolds Harlandview, Mrs. Grace Medler Rufus, Jean Ross juvenile Harlandview; executive Clarence Higley, Bill Huck and Geo. Fox of pomona, Sam Brock, Bill Huck and Atlee Wilson Rufus; Dewey Thompson, Dean Reynolds and Louis Sather Harlandview and Louis Miller and Jimmy Belshe of juvenile at Harlandview. Mrs. Blaine Miller was installed as juvenile matron for the children of Harlandview grange.

Mrs. Rosa M. Miller and her son Don Miller of Miller entertained at dinner Christmas for Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Miller of Terrebonne, Dorothy Adams, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Carlisle and daughters Sandra and Joyce and Mrs. Ida Carlisle all of Miller.

Mr. and Mrs. Leland Medler were hosts for Christmas dinner for Mr. and Mrs. Tom Macnab and family, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Macnab and sons, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Macnab and daughters, Frank Medler, Mr. and Mrs. Frank LeMaster and son Mike, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Burnett and daughters and Mr. and Mrs. Leo Dumler and sons. Mrs. Medler had a large decorated table in the dining room for the adults and a large table in the utility room for the children.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Dumler and sons of Salem arrived Thursday evening to spend the holidays as guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Macnab and see other relatives who live here.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank LeMaster and son Mike of Portland came up for Christmas day to be with relatives here.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Coleman and family of Umatilla visited over the weekend at Rufus with relatives.

WANT ADS

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE a 54% income return based upon a prior claim to the yardage, feed and weighing profits of over 25% of all the livestock received at central stockyards of the USA? Let me tell you more about UNITED STOCKYARDS CORP., preferred stock. This is the parent

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. John E. DeMoss, N.G. Leo Watkins, Secretary

Lupine Rebekah Lodge No. 116 Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Visiting members cordially invited to meet with. Mollie McLachlan, N.G. Helen Martin, Sec.

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. Robert Belshe, W.M. H. B. Pinkerton, Secretary

Bethlehem Chapter No. 5 O.E.S. Meets every second and fourth Thursday in each month; visiting members invited. Moro, Oregon. Mary O. Coons, W.M. Gwen Ross, Secretary

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WANTED: Work on ranch, have local experience, know machinery and farming. Eldon Lane, 111 E. State St. Hood River. 9p

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MACHINERY

AUCTION SALE

Jan. 5th at 10:00 A.M.

BLALOCK, ORE.

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WATKINS DEALERSHIP: Make up to \$500 a month and more if you qualify for the Watkins Dealership in Sherman county. Car or truck required. No money required. Write J. R. Watkins Company, 137 Dexter Ave., Seattle 9, Wash. 6-11c

STATE WIDE PAINT CO. complete painting and decorating service, spray or brush. Phone 3977 or 5293, 1205 E. 12th St. Vern Campbell and Jack Null, The Dalles, Oregon 38tfn

WANTED: HOUSEWIVES - Address advertising postcards. Must have good handwriting. LINDO, Watertown, Mass. 9-13p

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
All persons having claims against the Estate of Ralph P. Brishine, deceased, are hereby notified to present them, with the proper vouchers, and duly verified, to the undersigned, the duly appointed, qualified, and acting Executrix of the Estate of Ralph P. Brishine, deceased, at the office of T. Lester Johnson, attorney at law, Moro, Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice, to-wit: December 11, 1953. Havie Stella Brishine Executrix

T. Lester Johnson  
Attorney for Executrix 6-9c

NOTICE: The County Court of Sherman County, Oregon, has appointed William Harry Ragdale and John L. Searcy as joint executors of the estate of WILLIAM H. RAGDALE, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present them with proper vouchers to the undersigned executors at the office of the County Clerk, Sherman County Court House, Moro, Oregon, within six months from December 18, 1953. WILLIAM HARRY RAGDALE Executor

JOHN L. SEACY, Executor  
PATTERSON, BUSH, & BRADLEY, Attorneys for Executors. 7-11c

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING

Notice is hereby given that Leonard Maurus Jr., Administrator of the Estate of Arthur W. Spencer, Deceased, has filed in the County Court of the State of Oregon for Sherman County, his Final Account, and the Court has set the 12th day of February, 1954, at 10:00 o'clock a. m., in the office of the County Clerk of Sherman County, Oregon, in the County Courthouse at Moro, Oregon, as the time and place for settlement of said accounting and for hearing objections to the same, if any. LEONARD MAURUS JR. Administrator  
J. Tracy Barton  
The Dalles, Oregon 9-12c  
Attorney for the Estate

BEEFO'S BEEFO'S  
There's one thing sure. Whatever your resolutions for 1954 you are going to have to eat if you keep them. Since you have to eat you just as well enjoy it and one of the very best ways to enjoy eating is to do it here. It's less work than cooking it yourself.  
Happy New Year to everyone and prosperity.  
BEEFO'S  
at the CAPITOL CITY, Moro, Oregon  
BEEFO'S BEEFO'S