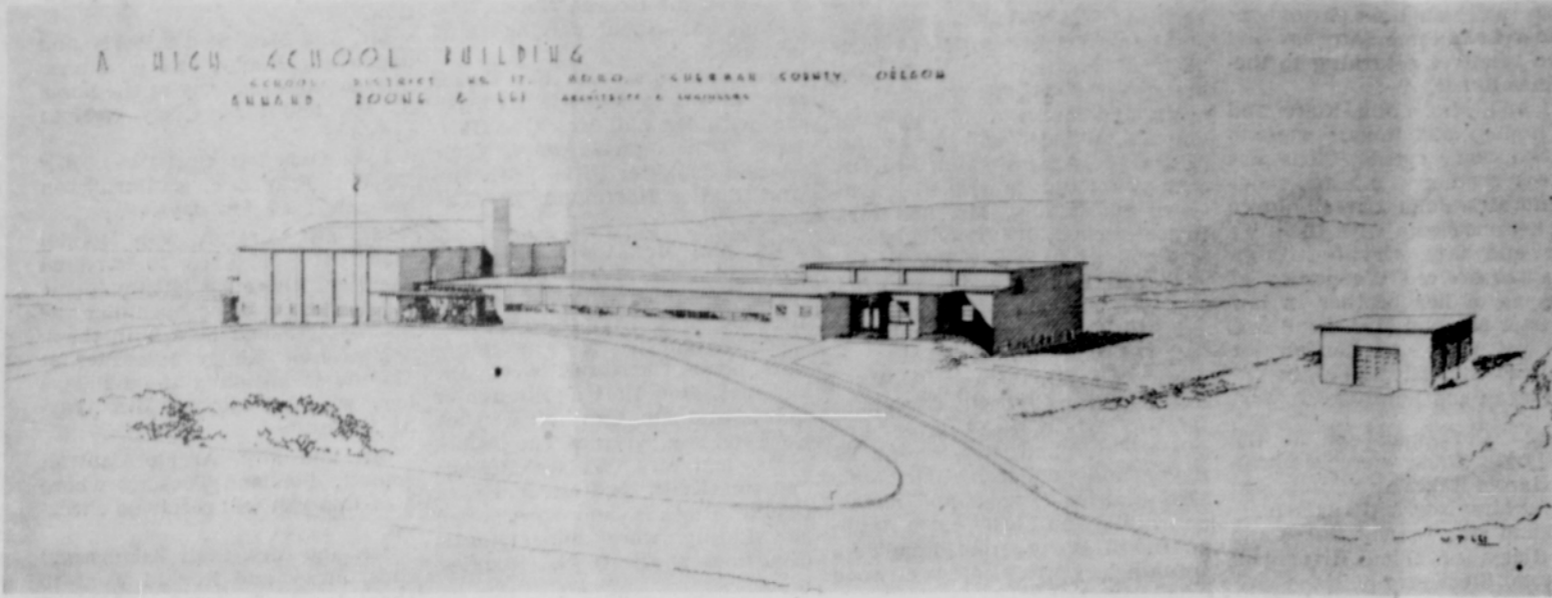


Sherman County In 1953 Was Productive and Busy



It is a custom, old and revered, and for that reason good, to select the ten biggest stories of the year as the year goes into history. There is said to be an interest in it. What is not explained is why there should always be ten biggest stories or why the biggest ten should be comparable in importance.

and change policy as dramatically, we are all known so intimately by our neighbors that nothing we do is very surprising. 1953 started off with a big rain, 1.67 inches, the biggest rain ever in a twelve hour period and it brought the somewhat under average crop year up to par in a hurry for it never quit. So for a



Sherman county doesn't run much to spot stories. Things happen slowly as the wheat grows and the spectacular seldom oc-

county where wheat is king the year started auspiciously. Later in the month a suit was started by Charley Powell again-



cur. It is easier on the nerves that way. While we die as suddenly as any and are born at regular speed, drive cars at limits

at the school district of Moro to prevent the construction of a projected high school building. It lasted nearly all year before the



district won a verdict in the circuit court and it caused arguments and animosities and was a lively subject for countless conversations. It may have caused, also, a reform in the method of handling public affairs.

Jim Jones' boys held an Eagle Scout court at Kent in which more boys became Eagle scouts than before in this county or in Oregon. Later, one of his boys, Harold Duncan was named to a committee of 12 who will go to Washington D. C. to meet President Eisenhower.

With bitter words and bruised egos the court and the five-man board decided to pay for a portable rock crusher which arrived early in the year and was put to work making little ones out of big ones for the Rosebush road east of Grass Valley. A body of citizens met and voted another six mill tax for road purposes and road work has gone on throughout the year in a way sufficiently satisfactory to cause little comment.

adventure it was in the olden days. There are few men hired and fewer yet of the roving ones who used to sew the sacks and fork the straw. These men are mechanics who seldom tell of the threshing in far north Saskatchewan in two feet of snow, or of building a railroad in soggy Philippine jungles, or cutting bananas in humid central America, or winning a hand at poker in some Alaskan mining camp. Such men, liars or entertainers, do not come to rural areas to harvest the wheat anymore so if one wants to read of adventure he must buy a magazine and find that editors (and perhaps the postal laws) have spoiled the story.

Girls have taken over the fair. They did the cooking, baked the cakes, sewed the aprons and, believe it or not, found time to feed the calves. Considering their feat it seems possible that the Indian didn't turn all work over to the squaw but that the squaw took it. Anyway the girls took over the 1953 fair in club work and the boys will have to do better or find some other pursuit in which to excel. Jean Ross and Sally Fields had a pair of most excellent calves. Lloyd Henrichs brought in the biggest Hereford bull and had him posed for a picture, which he did without posing or strutting, being a dignified animal albeit a bit lethargic. The gaiety about did not impress him, nor did the sun brighten his outlook.



The governor came to see us and said some nice things about us and about club work before the audience in the grandstand and in general mingled with the crowd whose aims and ambitions he understood.

Football took over then as a subject with the local high school eleven starting slow and getting better as the linemen found that offense is the best defense. But they couldn't win the big one so lost the eastern Oregon Championship in a post season game.

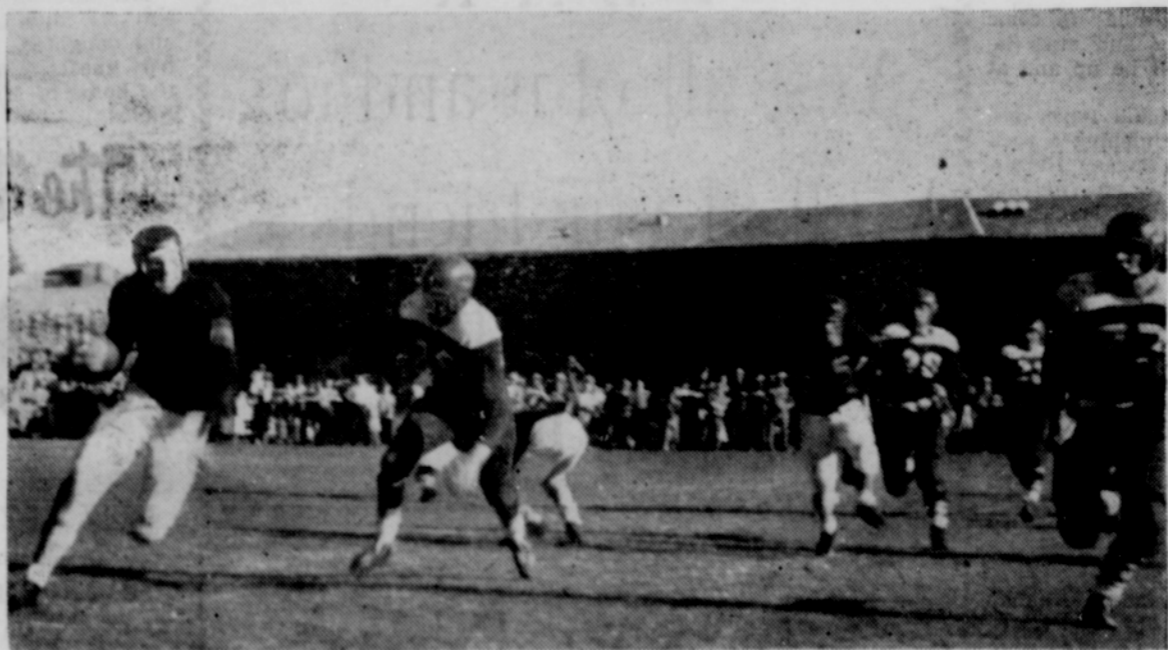
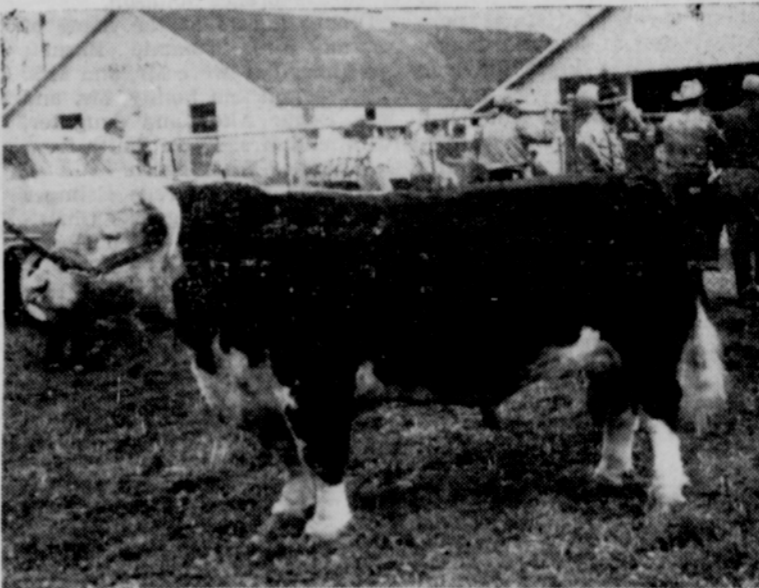
We had our share of flood and storm, something less than our share of sun and heat, much more than our average of rain.



We chose a queen at an early June play day at the fair grounds during which men, women and children rode horses, everyone wore bright shirts and Miss Elaine Brinkert was chosen queen for the county fair because she rode her horse the best and smiled the prettiest.

Then the 4-H club boys and girls went to The Dalles wheat league show and brought home the highest prize, with Joann Ross having the top calf. That was news although not new for Sherman county clubbers have been doing it regularly.

And then there was harvest, and a good one, over 4,500,000 bushels of wheat was cut from the stubbly face of Sherman county and hauled to the waiting elevators before the warmth of the sun had departed from the yellow kernels. Harvesting is not the



So back to farming and the soil conservation man of the year, Wallace May, who preserved his acres near Grass Valley after it looked as if they were ready to depart for the John Day river with the next big rainstorm. His plow bears little resemblance to the regular for he stirs the soil instead of turning it.

And so, we lived the year, filling our little place in the world and filling it well. Our production was high, enough to feed the entire state of Oregon its wheat, our children did well at their activities, our quarrels were normal and can be forgotten.

