

Sherman County Journal

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County Official Paper

These Things We Note

By Giles L. French

Some call themselves, conservatives, some liberals, but there is no difference basically. All it means is that they are conservative and liberal about different things.

Did any nation continue to grow after its citizens were assured of food and shelter?

Having worn 1953 clear out we can start worrying about 1954. Lucky to have a new year now and then.

In looking back over past years it is surprising how many impossible things have been done.

Efforts of school teachers to make mathematicians out of Americans have never been successful. However, the federal government is giving much indirect assistance by use of varied tax forms.

Says Uncle Emmett: "Well, enough depression to teach us what things are most important wouldn't hurt none."

We hear about an American company protesting the purchase of a generator for McNary dam from an English company at a price that saved \$650,000 on a \$3,000,000 purchase. Objection is that by buying it abroad American labor will lose \$2,000,000 and the government \$1,000,000 in taxes. Think that over.

Government seems to be the only activity that can be carried on with out information. A hardware man must know his bolts and screws, a grocer is expected to know caviar from cantaloupe, an insurance man has to be up on rates and risks or else he loses business. We demand that. Yet, everyday decisions are made in government with a minimum of knowledge about the law.

What is it about big cities that attracts young people? Is it that vague and defined term, bright lights, which may be interpreted as an opportunity to sin without resultant neighborhood gossip? Is it opportunity? A lot of small town sons left a business that they could have inherited to go to the city and work at a job they can hardly be interested in, and we see little use of opportunity in that. Maybe it is just change. One has to be a mighty big frog in a metropolitan puddle.

It isn't so bad, says the columnist, to accumulate fat around the waist. It is fat in the head that really hurts.

Mr. Dewey's speech is being quoted by those who want to make the Democrats mad and maybe by some who would make them ashamed.

Down near Remote in Coos county a farmer has shot a coyote near his home and the act has been considered news. It is commentary on the decline of the coyote as a public menace. A few years ago it was usual to shoot coyotes around the chicken pen and any young, adventurous birds that went far from the farm buildings were remembered only by a handful of wild blown feathers. Coyotes hereabouts were long considered one of the major drawbacks to successful livestock growing. They killed calves and did great havoc among lambs and shots. Now they are almost never seen and it has been years since their eerie cry has awakened sleepers.

We are interested in the governmental philosophy in the case in which Judge F. B. is preventing the railroads from reducing a freight rate. Is it the function of the ICC and the courts to keep rates high enough that any type of carrier can exist? Or is it best that competition be permitted or encouraged?

It's a good thing Henry Wallace can't get hold of that family with six sets of twins.

If both the Democratic and Republican parties would disband for six months the nation would get along better.

Leonard Fields Hurt In Power Take-off Accident On Sprayer

Leonard Fields was seriously injured last Thursday while operating a spray outfit. His arm entangled with the power take-off and he was thrown violently and his arm broken in three places.

In addition the muscles were pulled from his shoulder so badly that it was thought for a day or two that he might lose his arm. This possibility has been removed by now and it is thought that he will regain much use of the injured arm.

The spray outfit was being pulled and powered by a tractor and although the take-off universal was shielded his clothing became caught to cause the accident.

Mr. Fields is well known as a steward at the county fair, is a committee chairman for the wheat league and well known socially in the north end of the county. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Trace Fields of Rufus.

PTA To Hear Smith; Everyone Invited

Moro PTA will hold its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 13, at eight o'clock at the school. Jerry Disch and Miss Ina Jansen have arranged an interesting program, including a guest speaker, Hal Smith, track coach and physical education instructor at Linfield college. He will speak on the role of athletics and physical education in the school.

Since this is a topic important to so many in the community, it is hoped that many will attend this meeting whether not members of the PTA organization.

Know Demand To Increase Profits

M. D. Thomas, OSC extension agricultural economist, explains Oregon farm incomes—hinge on prices and production. Prices for most products depend on national and world—not Oregon—supply and demand. Oregon production depends mostly on weather and growers' responses to market condition, but planting restrictions will be of new importance in 1954.

Knowledge of domestic and foreign demand, government buying, marketing and production costs, and confidence will help maintain farm income and keep financing sound, says Thomas.

GRASS VALLEY NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Stradley and sons went to Portland last Tuesday to visit relatives, returning Thursday.

Frank Payne was taken to The Dalles Sunday where he entered the hospital for medical attention.

Arden Peters and Bud Kock of Grass Valley and Douglas Alley from Moro left Sunday for Klamath Falls where they will attend OTL.

Mr. and Mrs. Vance Matott and family of La Grande spent a few days here recently visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Matott.

Mr. and Mrs. Arzell Lemley had as dinner guests New Years day Carolyn Lemley, Mrs. Marguerite Morse, Mrs. Elsie Sherman and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Lemley and family.

Miss Natalie Wassenmiller left Sunday for her home in Portland, after spending the holidays here with her mother, Mrs. Lydia Wassenmiller.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Trimble were dinner guests New Years day at the home of her mother, Mrs. Ida Olds.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Payne and family returned Saturday from a trip to Alameda, Calif., where they spent the holidays with their son in law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Hal Gomez.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Blaylock had as weekend guests her brother in law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Taylor from Hood River.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Blagg, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Balzer and Mr. and Mrs. Gus Hartmann of Wasco were dinner guests New Years day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clair Balzer in Moro.

Mr. and Mrs. John Rust and Mr. and Mrs. Jack McGee were dinner guests New Years day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Dugger.

Appointments Made For County Positions

The county court made the usual appointments that come up at the first meeting of the year at its meeting Wednesday. Sheriff Norman Fields was made truant officer; Lester Wilson, Joe Peters and J. R. Yocum were kept as road viewers; W. E. Bruckert, T. Lester Johnson and Arzell Lemley remain as the dog damage board.

Dewey Thompson was reappointed as a three year member of the budget board and Charles Burnet was renamed as a fair board member. The Sherman County Journal was made the official county newspaper.

New election board members were appointed on some boards. Curtis Neal at Rufus; Mrs. Elva Dehler and R. M. Johnson at Wasco; Blaine Miller and Richard Bruckert at Moro and Durward Helyer at Kent. The court will be in session January 11 to pick the 200 name jury list.

The court reviewed the statement about road expenditures and found \$43,963 left out of the general road appropriation of \$67,950 and \$44,721 left out of the special road appropriation of \$54,777. Both figures were without subtracting the December expenditures. Funds strained for the six month period are repair, general supplies and miscellaneous.

Agreement was made with the Rufus school board to gravel the road to the school that is now surfaced with broken paving. It will be scarified and reconditioned.

The court has set February 3 at 2:30 p. m. as the date for the hearing on compulsory beef cattle testing for the county.

County Road Crew Crushing Rock

The county rock crusher is now at work between the George Wilson place and the Mildred Smith place where grading and rocking are in progress. This bit of road is used as a school bus route and has not had much rock heretofore.

The outfit is expected to move to the Rufus neighborhood later in the spring to crush rock and spread it there.

Beef "Dwarfism" Solution Sought

An inherited "dwarfism" has been showing up more and more in beef cattle the past few years, not only in the purebred herds, but also in commercial herds, says J. T. Ellings, extension animal husbandry specialist at OSC. Most dwarf cattle are very easily identified. Elling states, Many of them have short broad heads, a bulging forehead, stunted growth, heavy breathing, pot bellies, and protruding lower jaw sometimes as much as a half inch or more.

In a new OSC extension bulletin, the specialist reports there are many more dwarf carriers than was first suspected. Dwarfism in beef cattle isn't confined to any one of the three major beef breeds, Ellings writes.

Also in the publication is information about a method of identifying dwarf-carrier cattle. Using an instrument called a "profilometer", developed by Dr. P. W. Gregory of the University of California, two profiles of an animal's head are taken. These two profiles are then analyzed to determine whether the animal is a dwarf-carrier or dwarf-free. Ellings says the present outlook is that in mature bulls it is possible to determine whether bulls are carriers or dwarf-free 90% of the time by taking head profiles.

Until recently, identification of dwarfism by profilometer had been attempted only on bulls 30 months of age or over, the publication reports. However, recent work by Dr. Gregory and associates indicates that it may soon be possible to identify dwarf-carrier and dwarf-free bulls at much younger ages—possibly as yearlings or even at weaning time.

The bulletin, "Dwarfism in Beef Cattle" also includes information on how dwarf cattle are produced and factors breeders should consider in eliminating dwarfism from their herds. Breeders who wish to have their bulls profilometer-tested should contact their county extension agent, the publication states. Copies of the bulletin are available from county extension offices and OSC.

Masonic Lodges Install New Officers In Joint Ceremony

Installation of officers by the Masons and Eastern Star was done Monday night following a banquet served by the Rebekahs in the Odd Fellows hall.

Mrs. Leo Paul sang two numbers as did Mrs. Ed Justesen and Miss Dorothy Beachler.

Installing officer Naomi Van Gilder assisted by Marie Hoskinson, marshal, Anna Moore chaplain and Nina Pinkerton, organist, inducted into office the following: Worthy Matron Betty Christianson; Worthy Patron, Joe Heater; Associate Patron, Kathy Thompson; Associate Patron, Darwin Van Gilder; secretary, Elsie Jones; treasurer, Bonnie May; conductress, Dorene Hall; associate conductress, Genevieve Powell; chaplain, Gwen Ross; marshal, Orliu Coons; Adah Marie Hoskinson; Ruth, Margaret Pinkerton; Esther, Naomi Van Gilder; Electa, Ethel Strong; warder, Pauline Douma, sentinel, Harry Pinkerton.

Members of the Masons were installed by Lloyd Henrichs with Darwin Van Gilder as marshal and Lloyd Johnson as chaplain. Officers are: Worshipful Master, Howard Ross; Senior Warden, Frank Sayers; Junior Warden, Dean Pinkerton; secretary, Harry Pinkerton; treasurer, Clarence Spurling; Senior Deacon, Paul Alley; Junior Deacon, Joe Heater; Senior Steward, Claude May; Junior Steward, Clarence Higley; Tiler, Wm. Roos.

U.S. National Bank Gets More Deposits

With a gain of well over 24 million dollars during the past year, the United States National bank marked up a record deposit total of \$661,810,744 on December 31.

The Dalles branch reported deposits totaling \$15,989,003.27, according to C. A. Reynolds, manager.

Total loans and discounts also increased since the December 31, 1952, report and now stand at \$229,038,115. Loans and discounts for The Dalles branch now total \$4,931,503.91.

"With more than 75 per cent of U. S. National stock owned by Oregonians, this bank is truly home owned and home operated", states Reynolds.

The shareholders of the bank are being requested at the annual meeting to be held January 19, to pass upon a proposal to increase the capital stock by 100,000 shares. The proposal would increase the number of shares from 700,000 to 800,000. Capital would be increased by \$2,000,000, bringing it to \$16,000,000. Distribution of the stock dividend would be on the basis of one additional share for each seven held on record January 31.

Farm Prices Rise Slight Percentage

Some strengthening of farm prices may come in 1954. The general business situation holds the key, says Dr. G. B. Wood, head of the department of agricultural economics at OSC.

Wood, a member of President Eisenhower's national advisory agricultural commission, explains that farm and business prosperity tend to parallel each other. When business or consumer incomes are high, people buy more food and are willing to pay higher prices for it.

Farm income is expected to continue below the levels of recent years, although Wood believes the price-cost squeeze, active since 1951, may ease a little during the coming months.

Farmers are producing more than can be sold at "high" prices, explains the economist. Possibilities of expanding markets are hopeful but not too promising in the short run. If the farm plant is to produce to capacity, says Wood, farmers will face lower prices than in recent years and lower net income. Higher marketing costs and shrinking exports will be important influences.

Both price cuts as well as curtailed production are likely in the year ahead. Government price and marketing assistance may take on new "appeal", the economist indicates.

Production costs should be down a little and with reasonable weather conditions, Wood expects Oregon farmers to have about as much money to spend in 1954 as during 1953.

Cattle Testing Petition Asks County Assistance

A petition bearing the requisite 100 names of livestock owners was presented to the county court Wednesday asking that the court order compulsory testing of cattle for brucellosis. Testing of dairy animals for brucellosis (Bangs disease) is compulsory and testing of beef animals may be done if and when enough cattle owners petition.

They shall be tested in the same manner which includes 1) all animals over 12 months of age, 2) all officially vaccinated animals which have calved or which have reached 24 months of age.

The court may provide tests for brucellosis alone or for tuberculosis alone and must hold a public hearing before doing either.

Testing shall be done by a county veterinarian, who shall be paid by the county at a rate established by the court. In case no county veterinarian is available one may be appointed by the state to do the work. Not more than half the cost of the testing shall be charged to the cattle owner, the remainder is paid by the county from the general fund.

Any cattle owner claiming an indemnity must do so within five days after receiving notice of infection. The animal shall be appraised by the veterinarian at its market value. The state and the county shall pay indemnity to the owner of a reactor an amount "equal to one-sixth of the difference between the appraised value of the animal and its salvage, if any." Such indemnity, however, shall not be paid unless all the requirements of the act are complied with or unless the premises are properly cleaned or for any animal brought into the state within a year or has not been in the state a month.

Beef Best Buy Brag Beef Feeders

Beefsteak appetites—whetted by the best buys in years—can now get ready for large seasonal supplies of higher quality meat at lower prices as grain-fed cattle begin to clear the feed lots, says Ed Coles, OSC extension livestock marketing specialist.

Consumers won't find as much cheap beef as the record supply of grass-fat cattle closes out its fall and early winter market season, reports Coles. But plentiful supplies of "high good" and "choice" grade beef in the season ahead from higher-finished, grain-fed animals promise lower prices for those grades than in recent months.

Actually there is no difference in the food value—only in the eating quality—of the grass and grain-fed beef, Coles explains. Cattle from summer pasture and range that aren't slaughtered for fall marketing go into feed lots where grain and hay rations add more fat or "marbling" between the lean tissues. This results in juicier, more tender meat.

Court House Fights Once General; Now Forgotten By All But Oldest Old Timers

Moving of the Lincoln county court and seat of county government from Toledo to Newport is the latest of similar movements in Oregon counties. Nearly every county has had battles of varying degrees of vitriolic content over the location of the county seat. In some cases, as in Jefferson county, the official records were actually stolen at night. In others, as in Sherman, the matter was decided by ballot. Such things are not without disappointments however decided.

When Sherman county became a reality on February 25, 1889 when Governor Penoyer signed the McCoy bill the temporary courthouse was located at Wasco. James Fulton was appointed county judge but he did not accept the job and O. M. Scott became the first one with John Medler and Dayton Elliot as commissioners.

The first election to determine the county seat was indecisive with neither Wasco nor Moro nor Kenneth (located about where Charles Burnett now lives) obtained enough votes. The second election was decided between the two towns with 414 votes for Moro and 301 for Wasco.

There was divided sentiment in the north end of the county with

Rain Plentiful In 1953 and 1954 Starts Off Wet

The revised statement about rainfall in 1953 has been made and it makes a few minor changes in reports made previously. The total rainfall for the calendar year was 17.33 inches, much the greatest ever recorded at the local station. It bested the 1950 mark of 16.06 and the 1948 mark of 15.83.

The crop year moisture is well over normal due to December rains which totaled 2.12 inches, .46 above normal for the year end month. Crop year rainfall has been .11 for September .55 for October, 2.80 for November and 2.12 for December, a total of 5.58 inches or .52 above the average.

December was a warm month, too, which isn't news to those who lived thru it but it is at least a pleasant reminiscence. The highest temperature was 59 on the 15th and the lowest 22 on Christmas eve. The mean was 39.5, and that is 7.2 degrees above normal. Averages are ten degrees for lowest and 55 for highest. Yet back in 1917 there was a warmer December. It had an average mean of 42.5 and again in 1933 the mean average was 39.6. But this one did very well.

Tax Relief Possible For Farm Improving

Farmers who built grain storage or bins or who terraced land during 1953 may find they can benefit from income tax changes, according to Manning Becker, agricultural economist at OSC.

He said the law now provides that the cost of building corn cribs or grain bins can now be written off more quickly—over 60 months. The last congress put this incentive in the law to encourage farmers to build more storage bins and cribs.

Becker said the cost may be spread over a longer time. But anyone who decides to deduct in 60 months must indicate his decision within a year after the new storage structure is built.

The new policy on terracing costs is the result of a recent court decision. The economist said a court has ruled that terracing costs are deductible as operating expenses in the year terraces were finished.

Now all terracing costs except the farmer's own labor can be deducted or handled like any other operating cost. Until this year, they could be deducted only when the farm was sold.

Except for these two changes, the federal farm income tax law is the same as last year's, Becker said.

Two filing choices are open to persons who got two-thirds of their total income from farming. They may file and pay their tax on or before January 31, or they may file and pay an estimate by January 15. Those who choose the estimate method then have until March 15 to file their return and pay the balance.

Becker noted the importance of keeping accurate records for farm business expenditures and receipts. Farm record books are available from county extension agents.

Wheat Growers Back Efforts For Station Aid

The Oregon Wheat Growers League at its December meeting voted solid backing for the Moro experiment station and approved action for its committee which had been investigating the financial condition of the station and reports that it may be reduced in effectiveness.

Dewey Thompson and Kenneth Fridley are members of the committee who went to Corvallis to obtain direct information about intentions regarding the station and Glen Campbell of Morrow county and Donald Potter of Gilliam county are other members.

Difficulties began several years ago when the federal government reduced the appropriation for the Bureau of Plant Industry that provided funds for the station superintendent and the foreman. Some funds were obtained but never as large as before and the local station has been to a greater percent than most experiment stations a charge of the state.

State funds have been going into special appropriations so that there has been inadequate support for the Moro station. There was some feeling that it may be reduced to a one man station with little or no federal support. This would mean that a crops man would be left here and no soils work done here at all, and nothing on weeds.

The suggestion has been made that the wheat commission use some of its funds to support the station and this the committee has rejected as being unfair to wheat growers to support their own stations and yet pay taxes to support the stations of other phases of agriculture. Suggestion that Sherman county, alone or with adjoining counties, help the station come under the same criticism.

When the Moro station was established it was placed here because this type of soil and this rainfall was more typical of the mid-Columbia wheat basin than any other spot. It has made some important contributions to better farming in this area as well as in similar soil and moisture areas in Washington.

Lester King, past president of the Oregon Wheat Growers league is going to Washington this month and will make an effort to get the federal government to increase its appropriation for the Moro station. That, in itself, will probably not be sufficient. Wheat growers and citizens in the area served by the station must be interested if the station is to be retained.

Soil Conservors Schedule Session

The Sherman County Soil Conservation District annual meeting will be held January 19, 1:30 p. m. county courthouse, Moro, Oregon, county extension agent, T. W. Thompson, announced this week.

"The opportunity in range management through sagebrush control and reseeding", will be discussed by Donald Hyder, range conservationist, Squaw Butte, Harney branch experiment station, Burns, Oregon. Mr. Hyder has conducted considerable work on chemical control of sagebrush brush and reseeding methods for range improvement and will show colored slides of some of the work Thompson states.

The remaining portion of the program will be announced at a later date. The annual report of the district will be presented and election of one supervisor will be made.

W. L. May, is chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Other members of the board are Albert Kaseberg, Charles Kuypers, Vernon Miller and Luther Davis. T. W. Thompson is secretary of the board.

ABOUT THE COUNTY

The Grass Valley Grain Growers is holding a meeting Saturday to let the membership decide what should be done about providing sufficient storage for barley for the 1954 crop.

WASCO METHODIST CHURCH Next Sunday night, January 10 is family night, 6:30 p. m. pot luck luncheon, 7:30 p. m. program and sound movies.

Rev. H. Gravenor Mr. and Mrs. Francis Rhinehart of Alsea visited friends in Wasco Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Drinkard Jr. have spent several days in Portland. George had gotten varnish in his eye and was hospitalized as a result.