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NOTHING BUT WHEAT

Sherman county is the Oregon county with the greatest percentage of income derived from agriculture. Its percentage is 82.4 and the average for the state is 11.7.

For the present that is possibly a fortunate position. Agriculture has been profitable, and is yet. It does indicate that all our eggs are in one basket. Not even the agriculture is varied. It is wheat and not much else except a few cattle. That is specialization with a vengeance.

It is possible that the county can continue to rely solely on wheat. It has done so for years although with not the concentration of the present. There used to be some hogs, sheep, poultry and dairy cattle. About the only rule that is safe to follow is that there will be change and any change in wheat production, distribution or use would be felt in this county very quickly and perhaps disastrously.

It now appears likely that the farm program will continue much as it has; that is that there will be guaranteed loan values with resultant acreage reductions. We now have but two-thirds of a crop seeded to wheat, and while we may supplement barley that will be of short duration unless some way is found to use a lot of barley.

It isn't that we are so involved with wheat. That is our natural crop and has been for years. It is worse that we think of nothing else. Unless there is wide spread drought it does not look as if there will be much chance to grow a big crop of wheat for some years. The present farm program encourages every farmer to sow wheat; eventually we will be eliminated because we are far from the primary market and we do not grow a bread wheat anyway.

Other places with less financial ability have found an industry to help stabilize the economy and some have found it without the aid of adjacent electricity or even transportation as suitable as ours.

STATE OF THE NATION

It seems only fair that we should do our share of worrying about the state of the nation, the welfare of the Republican party, the ambitions of the Democrats, the possibility of a depression, the danger of atomic oblivion.

Having been told by a reliable banker that bank deposits are higher than ever and savings are growing as danger of food lines seems a little remote but nothing is beyond the imagination of a first rate worrier, especially one who deplores with distrust and dismay.

With every public cave full of public butter and cheese and with the warehouses bursting with wheat and corn it takes a resolute stomach to threaten immediate collapse and ours has just reported that it continues to expect the usual tri-daily stoking with possibility of an increase in girth.

Corporations have been reporting big dividends during 1953 and will be able to reduce taxes paid immediately and Christmas business was bigger than the big Santa year of 1952, so except for the man who worries because it wasn't as much bigger as he wanted there seems little reason for concern from that quarter.

It looks as if the American people are going to have a big bust they are in fine position to have it comfortably. The worst that could happen to them would be to have to take an interest in their own future and quit depending on the government.

SPRING?

Early this week the first seed catalogues came, on a morning without frost and with a murky sky that promised enough moisture for any garden crop. This seems a little early but it is the custom of seed companies to be alert to business.

If there had been snow on the ground and if the prospective gardener receiving the catalogue had been wrapped in furs and

such woollens as he possessed there might have been greater welcome for the brightly colored prospectus for gardens galore next spring. As it was it seemed ordinary. Anyone could have planted anything that day. Radishes or hardy lettuce would have sprouted and thrived that January morning and even tomatoes or squash would have felt the thrill of growth although it may have been stilled later.

In other words winter had been non-existent to the first of this week. Zero was a spot on the thermometer as unreached as a Russian promise. The sun had shone brightly or the rain had poured down from cloudy and warm skies. One didn't thrill to a seed catalogue as one might if the ground were frozen and spring was a remote possibility to be reached in some distant future.

There is some loss from a warm winter. The suspense is lacking; the yearning for balmy sun, the free wind of spring. The winters that are soft and warm do not make spring the season it should be. They do not give the background for it. Pshaw, what is the reason for spring if the winter has been mild enough to stimulate the pussy willows and encourage the violets?

But anyway, here are the seed catalogues, not so much the harbingers of spring as the sargeants calling us to work again. We need a winter between growing seasons so that growth may seem new and fresh and promising again and not just another bout with the hoe and the spade. We need to be threatened with cold, with freezing, with violent death. Only then are we happy with new life.

PAUL PATTERSON

Governor Paul Patterson, as was expected by the political observers of the state, has announced that he will be a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor at the May primaries.

He had served as a state senator from 1944 until he became governor on the resignation of Douglas McKay. His interest was particularly with roads and education although as a lawyer he had to work with many other phases of state government.

One of Patterson's assets is that he seldom speaks from prejudice. His habit is to listen to the arguments of proponents and makes up his own mind. He is attached to no particular group in Oregon politics and is not of the disposition to become so attached.

His difficulty will be in getting voters sufficiently acquainted with him to realize and appreciate his excellent traits of character that make him a good and dependable public servant.

DEATH VALLEY SCOTTY

An aged man, named Walter Scott, died at a lonely but imposing home in a narrow tributary canyon to Death Valley this week at 81. He had had a lot of fun, spending money and pulling the public leg and in general giving vent to healthy imagination.

For years he posed as a desert character with a hidden gold mine and unlimited funds which he threw about recklessly on his trips to town—and town was the larger city for Scotty.

The truth was that he obtained his money from an eastern millionaire, one Johnson, an educated and inhibited gentleman whose background was entirely different than Scotty's. How these two men became acquainted is not known and is unimportant.

The fact that the man with money knew enough to let Scotty spend it is unique and rather important as a social point. One had imagination and the other had money; neither attribute was very valuable without the other and apparently one balanced the other in the partnership. By pooling their resources both had a good time, lived in a home which tourists called a castle, entertained possessors of well known names and raised a modest brand of discreet hell befitting their age and self-made fame.

There are thousands of men with more money than they know what to do with and thousands more who have fertile imaginations that are barren without some funds. Money is no good unless you know how to spend it and Johnson was wise in this realization. Had he not been wise he would have died as the repressed deacon which he resembled. And Scotty would have been a bar-room braggart without dignity. Together they were famous, happy and comfortable.

Average cost of educating high school children in Washington county is announced as \$199.33. Assuming that their education is of average quality Sherman county could send its high school students to that county, pay tuition and board and get off a lot cheaper than it does. It won't, of course, because parents like to have their teen age children around so they can absorb parental advice.

People's Column

TO THE EDITOR:
I would like to add a little early history to your postoffice story.

Bill Bennett and Rosa Burrel were partners in a small store and postoffice at Deschutes where Carlisle lives. Bennett was committed June 1894. I worked part time for Fred Phelps carrying the mail, herding cattle and tending toll bridge in 1893.

The office was transferred to the section house at Deschutes and Mrs. Mulholand cared for the mail till sometime in the year 1894. Phelps' office was located at the end of the bridge one mile from the mouth.

The only postmasters I ever knew were at Biggs, Dixon McDonald and Mrs. Lucius Berrian Clark. Clark and George Berrian operated a lumber yard and ferry in conjunction with the postoffice which was located exactly where Dinty's station now stands. The mail was mostly the San Francisco Weekly Examiner, the St. Louis Globe Democrat and The Dalles Mountaineer.

I might add further, our family lived three miles up the river for seven years on a fruit and stock place from 1891 to 1898. Father, I and Jack Underhill plowed the first sod on the Gordon Butte, 80 acres with two 12 inch footburners, horses borrowed from Walker and Pierre Coutoure. The grasshoppers took the entire crop, killed the orchard and everything. Glanders killed 41 head of Walker's horses; black leg and a spine disease took 73 head of our cattle. George Ramey moved the family, two saddle horses, three cows and two dogs back to Grant.

My lifelong friends were Levi Hines, A. J. Price, Ada Fulton and Clothilde Love Lucas. Mrs. Lucas passed to her reward last year at Heppner, Oregon.
C. A. Tom

Rufus Personals

Mrs. George Fox
A group of young people from Rufus went carolling at the three hospitals in The Dalles during vacation and enjoyed singing to the shut-ins.

Willis Barney received a letter from his chaplain friend in Korea saying the people there were greatly in need of warm clothing. The Rufus Missionary society wishes to send them a box of clothing. Anyone wanting to help, either with clothing or change for postage may leave their gift at the parsonage.

Rev. and Mrs. Willis Barney and children spent New Years evening in Arlington attending a Watch party at the Nazarene church. Three churches were represented with a group coming from Ione, Rufus and Arlington. An interesting program was given and refreshments were served.

Mr. and Mrs. Fay Brackett, Mrs. Herman Brackett and Bennie Croft took Mary Brackett to Stanfield Sunday afternoon. Mary who is a high school teacher at Stanfield spent the holidays here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Brackett.

William O'Brien, president, opened the business meeting when the Rufus PTA met at the school house Monday evening.

O'Brien announced the next meeting date will be changed to the second Monday in February which will be February 8. This was changed so that Colonel Elder of The Dalles, army engineers could come and put on a program about The Dalles dam. He will show pictures as well as give us some interesting facts. This meeting is open to the public and any one interested will be welcome to attend. There will be no serving committee that night.

The PTA discussed ways of getting sick children home from school when the school can't contact the parents. Mrs. John DeFigh, Mrs. Ray Brown and Mrs. Harvey Hansen are willing to take the children home if they have no way.

For the program, Mr. Gardner, principal of the Arlington school at the piano and Frank Adams, Delbert Anderson and Ron Davis on their trumpets played "Trumpeters Three" and "My Buddy". At the close Mrs. Lenoard Jordan, Mrs. Joe Morris and Mrs. Leiland Medler served sandwiches, potato chips and coffee to all.

After a nearly perfect weather for the holiday season, it poured down rain early Monday morning. The roads were quite soft when the Rufus school bus made the rounds on the hill that morning. The bus made several tries before it made it up the Striker hill.

Dr. and Mrs. Frank Reid entertained with a party at their home for the younger set with their son David as a host. A six thirty dinner was served to sixteen boys and girls. Mrs. Allen Tom assisted Mrs. Reid in serving. After dinner games were played. The young folks reported a very nice time and hope they can have more parties in the future.

The Rufus womens volleyball team will play The Dalles A team on the Rufus gym floor Thursday night.

Several new pupils have entered Rufus school this week. They are Richard Carrol and Willia Deana McCarty who are in the fifth grade. And Clarice Carrol in the eighth grade and Anna May McCarty in the 6th grade. The Carrol children came from school at Camas, Wn. The McCarty's were formerly enrolled at Siletz. Heppner high school boys come to Rufus Friday night for a basketball game here. Saturday night the Moro boys come to Rufus for a game.

The Rufus boys basketball team was defeated by Dufur on their floor last Tuesday evening. The Dufur girls volleyball team was also winner over the Rufus girls.

W. E. Simmons of Portland is spending a few days visiting friends in Rufus. He is a house guest of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Huck. Sunday they were guests of Mr. and Mrs. James Fox. Monday, Simmons visited at Rufus school where he did the janitor work for many years when the now present school was "Simmy" as he was always called by the kids, is very active despite his 71 years.

Michael O'Brien went home Sunday after spending a few days of his school vacation at the home of Jimmy Fox.

Miss Lola Johnson was an over night visitor of Donna Wilson Tuesday night after her volleyball game at Dufur. Donna who is a freshman at OSC spent the holiday at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Wilson.

Wayne and Gail Eaton came to spend part of the holiday season with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Eaton. Wayne who is in the United States air force was stationed near the east coast but is now assigned to the west coast. Gayle is working at an airplane factory in California.

Mr. and Mrs. George Fox and sons and Michael O'Brien their houseguest were New Years dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Weatherford of Arlington.

Mrs. Bee Macnab and daughter Joan of The Dalles spent the week end visiting Mr. and Mrs. Bill Macnab.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Paist returned home Thursday from a weeks visit spent with Mr. and Mrs. Norkoski at Aberdeen, Wn. They are the parents of Mrs. Paist and were former residents at Biggs when he worked for the railroad here.

Christmas dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Don Macnab were Mr. and Mrs. John Addington of Dufur and Mrs. Sarah Giannonnatti. During the holidays Mrs. Sarah Giannonnatti spent several days visiting with friends at Prosser, Wn.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Macnab and family had New Years dinner with Mrs. Francis Leeahan and family at Dufur.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill O'Brien spent Tuesday night at the Don Macnab home viewing television.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Metzgar of Portland were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Gray and daughter Cheryl.

Mr. and Mrs. John Kellogg and children Shirley and Jack spent the Christmas weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Hilmer Fossbender at Junction City.

FOR SALE: House in Wasco, 6 bedrooms, furnished, upstairs apartment can be rented for revenue; 2 fireplaces, 3 lots. Price \$6000, \$3000 down. Call Wasco, 622.

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Moro Lodge No. 113 L.O.O.F. Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in L.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 welcome. 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 us. Howard Ross, 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. Mary O. Coons, W. M. Gwen Ross, Secretary

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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

Secretary Benson Tells Problems

By Ezra Taft Benson

Any effective solution of today's farm problem must provide methods for reducing our huge stockpile of agricultural commodities and at the same time prevent further burdensome accumulations.

Getting rid of these surpluses is only half of our problem. Even if we were able to bring them down to manageable proportions, we would soon acquire new hoards of wheat, corn, cotton and butter under the existing system of price supports.

We already have approximately \$2.5 billions tied up in loans on farm commodities, in addition to an equal amount invested in goods which we own outright—\$5 billions in all.

Our present program does not encourage the production shifts which are required to meet the changing market demands for various commodities.

Of course, we could destroy some of our surpluses. Remember the government's potato fiasco of a few years ago?

Or we might plow under every third row of cotton and kill little pigs. Remember the mid-1930's? Actually, we would not even consider such wasteful practices.

We are attempting to move surplus food and fiber into foreign markets. World prices, however, are well below the figures at which we acquired these commodities under our price support operations. This means that we will be forced to take substantial losses on whatever we sell abroad.

At the same time, we must avoid outright dumping, which would disrupt normal trade channels and bring down upon us the wrath of other friendly countries.

There are these other alternatives. We can make a real effort to move surpluses out of ware-

houses and into stomachs by promoting greater public consumption of some commodities. We can push forward in our research programs to uncover new uses for farm goods. We can throw our entire weight behind plans for expanding present foreign markets and finding new outlets overseas.

Such methods, while they will not produce results as quickly as dumping or destroying food, offer a far sounder approach to our basic problems.

Along those lines, I can report that our promotional campaign, undertaken with the meat industry and food stores, is producing real results. We are consuming beef this year at the rate of 75 pounds per person, the highest in our history.

Farm exports have turned upward since July 1, reflecting our emphasis upon expanding trade. Continued high employment at home, with national income at record levels, means a strong demand for farm goods in the United States.

Our population is growing at a rate of more than 2,000,000 per year, which means that by 1975 there will be 200,000,000 Americans. Our future farm problems may involve questions of shortages, rather than surpluses.

We cannot wait for an expanding population to solve our immediate troubles, however. We need an interim program to encourage shifts to other crops.

We must halt further build-ups of government stockpiles now. Our urgent need is for a price support program which can be adjusted in terms of production and demand. One which will effectively reduce surpluses, with a minimum of government controls.

That is our immediate goal. Such a program will be offered to congress by this administration in January.

BEEFO'S BEEFO'S
Come in and let us wish you a "Happy New Year". Don't think it is too late, the year is still young and we'd like to do it.
That is what we run this place for—to give you a place to meet your friends and enjoy yourselves. We like it too.
BEEFO'S BEEFO'S
at the CAPITOL CITY, Moro, Oregon
BEEFO'S BEEFO'S