

Sherman County Journal  
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OFFICIAL COUNTY PAPER

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JULY 29, 1955

**REAPPRAISAL**

The county court has divided the county into seven districts and appointed five men from each district to conduct the reappraisal program to achieve property tax equalization in Sherman county.

This is an excellent and almost necessary step. The reason we say almost necessary is that the state would have done it if the county had not done so. By doing it by local men the county will save a good bit of money and will get an appraisal that satisfies local land owners. The latter is the best thing about it.

Everyone knows that real property valuations for assessment purposes are ridiculous. In this county tillable land is valued at an average of \$21.31. The same conditions prevail over most of the entire United States and nearly every state is trying in one way or another to bring assessments up to date. Some owners oppose, thinking that taxes will be higher. The purpose is not to raise taxes but to equalize them.

Land in Sherman county, farm land that is, is probably worth about \$80 to \$90 per acre on a long-time, realistic basis. Probably very little could be bought for that right now and although much of it might be sold for \$200 per acre it is not worth that if time be taken as an element.

The present tax laws of the state make it mandatory that assessments be based on market value. Technically that is proper, although no assessor is going to revalue all the land each year, nor is he going to overlook the element of time in land assessment.

Land in this county was reduced in value for assessment during the depression and has not been raised materially during the boom. That has been an error that the reappraisal program is designed to cure.

It matters not a bit what value is put on property so far as taxes are concerned. When the voters approve taxes by direct levy or through the budget made by the county court and passed at a public hearing the amount levied is put on property. If land is valued low the tax rate is high if land is valued high the tax rate is low. The same amount of money is raised in either case.

To achieve equalization it is necessary to tax personal property and utility property in the same way as real property is taxed. All bear the same tax rate. When land is valued too low, personal property must also be valued too low and utility property must also be valued too low.

Public utilities have long paid too great a percentage of the property taxes. They didn't kick about it because they were exempt from the corporation excise tax. Now they are being made to pay the excise tax and it is unfair to make them pay a property tax that is too high. It never was fair but there was equalization of a sort in it.

So we are happy that the court has taken preliminary steps to start the reappraisal program and we are pleased with the men selected to do the job. We should be able to do as good a job as Gillingham county did and that is one of the best in the state.

**JOHN DAY DAM**

The advocates of public power or none at all should be most happy at the postponement of the Coon bill for partnership construction of the John Day dam. Such action could have been foretold weeks ago.

The chairman of the sub-committee having the dam bills for Oregon in charge was absent for more than ten days with what newspapers reported to a "recurring ailment" and on return discovered that there was insufficient time for a hearing on the John Day bill. The same fate will overtake Cougar and Green Peter.

The battle is drawn on purely political lines and that bodes ill for any dam construction in the northwest.

An ideological contest is being waged behind the political front but it is in the background so far. Probably it will not come to the front of the stage except by way of politics and when confused by politics.

It is not yet known for sure how the citizens of Oregon feel about public and private power. In elections held up to now the voters have shown a decided preference for private power. Proponents of public power claim that the senatorial contest last fall was an indication of change on the part of voters but there were so many other factors in that contest that the decision was not made on power alone. No unprejudiced person would so claim.

Congress has now decided to put off consideration of the John Day dam partnership bill for another year and it is probable that it is for the purpose of keeping the issue hot for the elections. That, in itself, is a disservice to the northwest.

There are those with some authority in Oregon who feel that the federal government should build all the dams in order to obtain the profit that may accrue. They are the ones who think that government should compete with private industry and are basically socialists.

Perhaps there are some who feel that all power should be handled by private companies, but such sentiment is not often heard. Then there is the great majority

who feel that it is necessary to get some dams built and are not particular who does it. If the federal government is in financial straits (and it is) this group would let private companies build a part of the dams. They are not afraid of private ownership, are not suspicious of their neighbors. They know that the government will regulate power rates anyway and will collect income taxes. They also know that government is never able to manage as economically as private industry and may feel that the small profit permitted will be less than the price of government mis-management.

As for us, we are a part of the latter group. We are much more afraid of big government than of big business. Big business can be controlled; big government can not.

**Kent Items**

By Nancy Wilson

Rolling clouds of black smoke swept up from the Hans Bardenhagen ranch about 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon as a grass fire crept too close and set fire to the fuel supply. Diesel barrels in the resulting explosion flew 100 feet into the air. A pile of posts and one small building also were destroyed. Friends and neighbors gathered to help fight the fire and a watch was kept during the night to guard against any further damage.

Mrs. Bill Smith was honored with a household shower Thursday given by Mrs. E. Norton and Mrs. Robert Tatum at the Legion hall. The gift table was covered with a lace cloth and centered with a bouquet of pink and gold chrysanthemums. Occasional bouquets of galliarda, red roses, baby breath and larkspur were placed about the room. Games were enjoyed by the guests after the gifts had been opened by Mrs. Smith. Refreshments of fruit salad, chicken sandwiches, punch and coffee were served.

Present beside the honored guest, Mrs. Smith, were Mrs. Frank von Borstel, Mrs. Amandus von Borstel, Miss Carol Norton, Mrs. Verle Cox, Mrs. Emma McKay, Mrs. E. C. Smith, Mrs. Henry Howell, Mrs. Mid Howell and son, Randall, Mrs. Eugene Knott, Mrs. Ben Maxfield, Mrs. Hans Bardenhagen, Mrs. Jack Jeffries and daughter, Bonnie, Mrs. Bob Brown of Moro, Mrs. Dorothy Benson and daughter, Cathey, of Grass Valley, Mrs. Robert Helyer, Mrs. Jack Adams, Mrs. John Reckman and daughter, Alice, Mrs. Carl Lyons, Mrs. Carl Watkins, Mrs. John Decker and Mrs. Melvin Schadewitz.

Nancy and Donnie Decker and Kenneth Bekkedahl were visitors over the week-end at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Bekkedahl at Paulina.

Mrs. Mildred McLachlan and children of Moro were guests Tuesday evening at the home of

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Wilson Jr. Mrs. Harry Justesen returned home Friday from Vancouver, B. C., where she has been visiting her brother, Kenneth Decker, who has been ill.

Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Helyer and family and Sherri Woods of Moro motored to Bend Sunday to visit relatives.

Mrs. Edna Koepke and family, Marquita, Helen and Terry, moved to Goldendale, Wash. Sunday where they will make their home.

Helen Koepke is visiting her father, John Koepke, for a few days in Redmond.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Maxfield and Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Kelly visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Knott Friday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Maxfield and family of Buhl, Idaho are visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Maxfield for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Knott and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Maxfield and Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Maxfield and family of Buhl, Idaho motored to Bear Springs Monday where they held a picnic. They later drove to Timberline Lodge before returning home.

Mrs. J. E. Norton and daughter, Carol, and Mrs. Clair Balzer motored to Portland Monday on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert V. Cox and family and Fred Gearhart of Tygh Valley and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cox and family of Wamie were dinner guests Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Cox.

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

All persons having claims against the Estate of Vernon K. Van Gilder, deceased, are hereby notified to present them, with the proper vouchers and duly verified, to the undersigned, the duly appointed, qualified and acting Executor of the Estate of Vernon K. Van Gilder, 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: July 29, 1955.

Glen Van Gilder, Executor.

T. Lester Johnson, Attorney for Executor. 394

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

All persons having claims against the Estate of Vernon Joseph Platt, 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 Vernon Joseph Platt, 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: July 29, 1955.

Lillian Katherine Platt, Executrix.

T. Lester Johnson, Attorney for Executrix. 394

John Wilson of Portland arrived Thursday night for a week's stay at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sereles.

**WANT ADS**

WANTED—Small white enamel wood range. Mrs. Glen Shoemaker. 3942pd

TEACHER, ex-ranch woman needs work, cooking or other. Mrs. Glea Palmer, P.O. Box 79, The Dalles. Phone 4076. 3942pd

FOR SALE—New 6-octave spinet piano at big reduction; good make, just right for play-room or small living room. Mrs. Glea Palmer, P.O. Box 79, Phone 4076, The Dalles.

FOR SALE—1 Massey-Harris Hill-side, new; 1 used Massey-Harris 27; 1 used International 51 elevator. Grass Valley Equipment & Repair, Phone 141, Grass Valley. 3942c

FOR SALE—New Johnson Loader with scoop, buckrake and push-off stacker. Will discount \$300. Chas. E. Davis, Grass Valley.

FOR SALE—Three properties: In Moro, 1 brick 2-apartment house, and 2 1/2 lots. In Grass Valley: One house with 4 bedrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom; and 5 lots. One three bedroom house, living room, dining room, kitchen and bath, plus large double garage and shop. 50% down and mortgage on balance with terms. See Al Fox, Grass Valley. 373tpd

RELIABLE man with car to serve 8000 family Watkins route. A good one-man business. 87 year reputation. Nationally advertised. No experience necessary. Write The J. R. Watkins Company, 137 Dexter Avenue, Seattle 9, Washington. 36-41

COMPETENT woman wants cooking for harvest crew or house-keeping on ranch. Full charge. Excellent references. Write Box 576, The Dalles, Ore. 36-39c

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 38tn

TELEPHONE STOCKS offer good income, stability, and value growth. Easily bought or redeemed. Bell System, and others local and national. Full information supplied for buying or selling. J. W. DODD, TYGH VALLEY, ORE. Phone 13F2. Eastern Ore. Mgr. Wm. J. Collins & Co. Phone Collect. 38 tn

CUSTOM SLAUGHTERING — Meat cutting, wrapping, sharp freeze. Kenny's Market, Grass Valley, Oregon Ph. 242 47fn

**HOUSE OF STEWART BEAUTY CLINIC**

will be at the Moro Legion Hall Thursday, August 4.  
at 9:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.  
Free Facial - Refreshments Served  
Educational - Public Invited



From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

**Modern Science Finally Catches Up With Grandpa**

I got put in my place the other night. Deserved it, too. My father-in-law said we were due for bad weather. "Birds are flying low," he reported. "That means a storm." I started to josh with the old gentleman about being superstitious. Then my nephew Jim, on vacation from college, pipes up. "Granddad's right," he says. "At least, that's what they say at school," Jim goes on. "The heavy air you get before a storm forces insects down low—so high-flying birds have to swoop along the ground if they want to eat."

From where I sit, there's probably sound reasoning back of most old sayings... back of anything people have learned to believe in. Take the idea of a stitch in time saving nine—sparing rods and spoiling children—of drinking hot milk, or a refreshing glass of beer, at bedtime. You may not hold with any of these beliefs yourself... but it's not smart to give them the "bird."

Joe Marsh

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**Sherman Theater**

Moro, Oregon

FRIDAY and SATURDAY

**RUN FOR COVER**

James Cagney, Viveca Lindfors, John Derek

SUNDAY and MONDAY

**SIGN OF THE PAGAN**

Jeff Chandler - Jack Palance

Ludmilla Tcherina - Rita Gam

**WHEAT LOANS**

You can realize cash on your wheat as soon as it is harvested and stored. This bank will gladly make the following types of Wheat Loans:

★ Our own Wheat Loan plan for which your insured warehouse receipts are sufficient collateral.

★ Regular Commodity Credit Corporation Loans. All you need to do is specify the U. S. National Bank when making out your Wheat Loan papers.

On either type of loan, you will receive prompt service at this bank.



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End rough idling, stalling, boost power, save gas... "Detergent-Action" restores the carburetor in your car or light truck to factory-clean condition... and keeps it clean while you drive. Yours in both Chevron Supreme and Chevron Gasoline.

For information on any Standard Oil Company of California product, call CATHERINE ANDERSEN KEITH McDONALD  
Grass Valley, Oregon Phone: Grass Valley, 232 Wasco 552  
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