

Sherman County Journal

Sixty Eighth Year No. 9

Moro, Oregon Friday December 30, 1955

County Official Paper

These Things We Note

By Giles L. French

Goodbye, Frosty the Snowman and Rudolph the reindeer. Hear you again next Christmas when you'll sound fresher.

Goodwin Knight of California is reported to have said that he could not get the nomination for president because not enough people knew him. Then there are some who are known to too many.

The way of democracy with taxes reminds us of pigs in a corn patch. Its got to be a big patch of corn to last through the winter.

It is natural that every nation should make its case on the thing at which it is best and the United States is basing its case on dollars. We think it can make a better case on ideas, on freedom.

Its probably a good idea to make resolutions even if you don't keep them. Making them is admission of imperfection and that needs recognition at least once a year.

For us we would like to see the merit system for teachers; then we would like to know how to do it. But there is nothing wrong with the theory of rewarding the efficient, the able.

John Gordon, who writes for the London, England, Express, has something to say about international visitors that Americans sometimes might echo: "Between Kinsey, Billy Graham and Ben Hecht, we seem to be having rather an overdose of Transatlantic oddities, concerned with our bodies, souls and cash. What a relief it would be if America could keep them at home."

To our eye the president looks like a better man than the doctor who is advising him.

We are getting a little tired of being told what the weather is going to be. We think we wouldn't be so tired if we were told correctly.

It has been suggested that some surplus Sherman county land could profitably be put into timber. There are some fine advantages in such a crop.

One of the nice things about this country is that you can plan on going anywhere else you wish. Then if money, time, responsibilities are favorable you can go without a passport or a word to a single soul.

One way to keep from breaking promises is not to make them.

Man started communication by pictures, it is said. Now TV indicates he may end the same way.

The person who likes money keeps it; the one who doesn't buys gadgets. Thus everyone is satisfied.

No one has yet charged the federal government with blame for the floods; but it will get to pay for the damage anyway.

It takes a lot of celebrating to get rid of an old year. We feast it on Thanksgiving as a show of appreciation and then there's Christmas and the lengthening of the days and the final wake on New Year's eve. Then we can go back to work.

Among the things to be continued into the next year is the decision on the E-R center in Portland. Maybe longer.

Farm income at \$6,768,000 for Sherman county is roughly \$3000 per capita or about double the national average of \$4100 per family. Other income would increase the county income by another \$1000 per capita. We're doing well.

We wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year and we use both words because they are not synonymous.

Court Ends Official Year With Minor Decisions and Monthly Bill Paving

CONDENSED REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF DECEMBER 7, 1955 TERM OF THE COUNTY COURT

Claims against all funds presented and allowed.

Treasurer's financial statement showing all fund balances as of Nov. 30, 1955 presented, approved and ordered filed.

Road Fund Balances presented, approved and ordered filed.

Gasoline consumption for Nov. presented and ordered filed.

Re: Right-of-way from quarry site to highway—B. King & D. King appear before court and discuss width of right-of-way—matter taken under advisement.

Re: Telephone easement—B. Jefferies et al appear before court and ask for easement from county to build telephone line—matter taken under advisement.

Re: paving around building in Rufus—J. Belloni asks permission for such paving—permission granted to be under supervision of road supervisor.

Re: sale of truck as advertised—R. Curtis highest bidder for truck. Gravel bills under discussion—D. A. authorized to write delinquents re: gravel bills owed county.

Re: Road salary under discussion—no definite action taken.

NO FURTHER MATTERS AT ISSUE. ADJOURNMENT ENSUED. CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST SHERMAN COUNTY, OREGON GENERAL AND ROAD FUNDS FOR NOVEMBER, 1955, APPROVED DECEMBER 7, 1955, TERM OF THE COUNTY COURT

GENERAL FUND: SHERIFF'S OFFICE: Burroughs Corp., \$79.45; Fields, \$137.50. CLERK'S OFFICE: Moro Postmaster, \$15.00.

TREASURER'S OFFICE: Sherman County Journal, \$7.50. ASSESSOR'S OFFICE: Ore. State college, \$10.00; Treas. of U. S., \$345.10; Balzer, \$35.80; Lester Wilson, \$15.00; Dewey Thompson, \$10.00; Record & Statistical Corp., \$3.00; Addressograph-Mult. Corp., \$3.71; Burroughs Corp., \$79.45.

COURTHOUSE: Kirkelle, \$6.75; Moro Lum. & Fuel Co., \$2.10; Service Laundry, \$3.00; J. Brady \$463.00; R. Twiss \$1696.00; King Bldg. Supply, \$46.93; water \$2.55; lights, \$31.82; phone, \$77.90.

CIRCUIT COURT: Jurors & Bailiff, \$323.45.

COUNTY COURT: Kuypers, \$29.20; Miller, \$87.00; Sather, \$30. U. S. FISH & WILDLIFE SER.: State Game Com., \$665.00; State Treas., \$960.00.

PREMIUM ON OFFICER'S BONDS: Fidelity & Deposit Co., \$50.00; J. Foss, \$100.00.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Johnson, \$81.93; Ore. Dist. Atty's Ass'n \$10.00.

EMERGENCY: Dr. Skirving, \$5.00.

COUNTY CORONER: \$14.00.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE: \$1016.25.

GOV'T TRAPPER: \$65.83.

DEMOS PARK: \$1.50.

COUNTY PRINTING: \$22.62.

MISCELLANEOUS: First National Bank, \$172.20; State Tax Com., \$22.71; Social Security, \$57.03; State Ind. Acci. Com., \$5.48.

ROAD FUND: WAGES: Dunlap, \$442.60; McPherson, \$219.63; Bayer, \$309.84; Morehouse, \$257.56; Gosson, \$287.56; Zachary, \$412.77; Shoemaker, \$304.46; Gray, \$299.84; Hammond, \$299.84; Yocum, \$231.52; First National Bank, \$213.20; State Tax

Com., \$33.76; Social Security, \$48.85; Retirement, \$11.10; State Ind. Acci. Com., \$4.34.

MISCELLANEOUS: Flatt's Truck Service, \$2.00; State Ind. Acci. Com., \$64.16; Moro Lum. & Fuel Co., \$109.41; phone, \$20.25; water, \$1.75; lights, \$18.01.

REPAIRS: B. & B. Wrecking Co., \$35.00; Tom's Weld & Equip. \$85.60; Int. Tractor & Equip. Co., \$13.31; Columbia Motor Service, \$8.28; Miller Motors, \$2.31; Moro Motors, \$0.85; Cushman Iron Co., \$16.44; The Dalles Iron Works, \$56.08; Sandy's Union Service, \$3.70; Woodbury Co., \$14.43; O'Meara Supply & Imp. Co., \$63.52.

GAS & OIL: Moro Grain Growers, \$27.95; Shell Oil Co., \$317.42; Standard Oil Co., \$380.40.

TIRES & TUBES: Firestones Stores: \$829.22.

GENERAL SUPPLIES: Smith Auto Parts, \$42.30; Auto Electric Supply \$65.13 Morrison Supply, \$95.19; J. E. Hazeltine Co., \$4.80; Hooper's Union Service, \$9.95; Service Motor Co., \$0.09; Moro Lum. & Fuel Co., \$81.97; Moon Equip Co., \$57.09.

BRIDGES & CULVERTS: Tygh Valley Sand & Gravel, \$142.50; Beall Pipe & Tank Corp., \$2592.45; Portland Wire & Steel Warehouse \$1016.63; Farmer's Supply Co., \$23.04; Moro Lum. & Fuel \$471.71.

WEED CONTROL: Butler Farm Air Service, \$286.00.

RETIREMENT: \$65.35.

Hearing Due On Fishing Regulations

Oregon sport fishing regulations for 1956 will be tentatively set following a public hearing on Friday, January 13, in the game commission's Portland office, 1634 S. W. Alder.

The public hearing will begin at 10 a. m. and winter and summer angling rules for all game fish will be covered.

Following a 2-week interval, a second hearing will be called by the commission on January 27 to set the final regulations for the 1956 season.

All persons interested are cordially invited to attend.

Drivers Cautioned

Warnings to drivers to take it easy on New Year's Eve apparently paid off in Oregon last year.

A study of state records by traffic safety officials indicated only 270 accidents were reported in the state on the last day of the year, despite the higher-than-usual number of drinking drivers usually presumed to be on the roads.

Officials expressed the hope that the same good record will be achieved this New Year's Eve. There were no deaths in New Year's Eve traffic last year, although 62 persons were injured.

Every individual can help combat New Year's Eve accidents, Secretary of State Newbry commented.

He suggested, again, that celebrants who drink allow nondrinking friends to drive them home or use the public transportation.

"Party hosts," he said, "can do their guests a favor by serving coffee and food just before the party ends to partially offset the liquor they have consumed."

1881-82 Winter Discouraged Stockmen; Stock Numbers Halved By Lack of Feed and Cold; Snow Covered Grass for Months

The winter of 1881-82 is another winter old timers remembered and newspapers recorded as being extreme.

Settlers had just begun to flock into Sherman county and it is possible that there were 1000 persons in what became Sherman county by that winter. The homesteaders had little stock although each must have had a few head of horses and perhaps a milch cow. The big stockmen had not yet left the county and the hard winter and resultant losses of stock certainly hastened their departure.

These old stockmen, many of them producers of horses, seldom put up any feed for winter. Horses would paw in the snow and find some grass and cattle could follow them or get along until the weather broke.

In February of 1882 a correspondent for The Dalles Mountaineer wrote that in the Grass Valley country cattle and sheep were dying fast and that many horses were poor and apt to die.

A. Scherneckau of Cross Hollows (which was to become Shan-

iko) wrote that half the stock in the Grass Valley country would not survive the winter.

Stockmen had been doing well for some time for there was for the first time a market for meat. The railroads building westward needed beef to feed the men who were making the grades and contractors came to the settled parts of the west to find cattle which were driven to the railroad to be butchered. Men who worked ten and twelve hours a day with pick and shovel could stow away a good bit of beef.

From accounts about the 1881-82 winter it is natural to draw the conclusion that a little preparation would have reduced the losses greatly. Actually the winter may have speeded agriculture in the county for it was apparent that cultivation was necessary if stock were to be kept in the county.

Cutting hay from the native bunch grass was possible but not easy. Machinery was not solidly enough built in those days to bump over the bunches and last

very long and keeping a scythe sharp enough to cut bunch grass is an art not yet learned. The only hay cut was on the meadows, notably the Gould meadow and the Finnegan meadow which annually yielded a good crop of hay.

There were other meadows in early days before they washed out and some hay could be cut from them if the fences around them held the roving stock away from them in May and June. Grass Valley canyon had several wide places which produced grass high enough to cut. Perry, Rutledge, Buckhollow and other canyons were level in spots.

But whether it should have happened is not the point; it did happen and when spring chinooks melted the snow into the tall grass only half the livestock were here to enjoy the sunshine and the feed.

Because the country was new and no one really knew what the winters would be like some were discouraged and ready to move on because it was plain to see that no one could keep stock in such a country let alone grow field crops.

County Income From Farming Down This Year

Gross agricultural income estimates for 1955 in Sherman county was down nearly 14 compared to the past four years, T. W. Thompson, county extension agent reports.

The year's income was estimated at \$6,768,000. The previous four years income average near the \$10,000,000 mark with a record of over 10 1/2 million income in 1953. Drought conditions prevailing during the 1955 crop year coupled with declining wheat and barley prices, and restrictions of wheat seeding have caused a serious drop in total income.

Drought conditions were serious for grain and pasture production with less than 9 inches of rainfall during the crop year, the Grass Valley and Kent area suffered in yields of wheat and barley along with lower yields in some other areas of the county. Reduced forage production on native and improved ranges caused some reduction of cattle numbers in some areas with other farmers increasing livestock numbers to supplement income. Livestock sales, it is estimated, have maintained about the same level as the previous year.

The price-cost squeeze has further complicated the farmers' financial status. A declining farm income coupled with still rising costs have altered the buying habits of many farmers.

Estimated income is divided into CASH CROP RECEIPTS and Dairy, Meat Animals, Wool, and Poultry. Grain crops marketing receipts, as usual, were far ahead with 91.5% of total income and livestock 8%. Livestock income as a whole has increased percentage wise. Tree fruits and hay crops are a minor income factor.

Grain crops marketed are based on 2,696,950 bushels of wheat, 20,000 tons of barley, 380 tons of oats, and 150 tons of mixed grain. Wheat yields declined from a record high of 36 bushels per acre in 1954 to just over 30 bushel per acre in 1955. The past years yields are way and above the 30 year average production of 23 bushels, but near the past 10 years average. Barley yields on an average dropped from one ton per acre last year to 3/4 of a ton in 1955. The average wheat price declined from \$2.17 in 1954 to \$2.00 in 1955, and barley from \$45 a ton in 1954 to \$39 in 1955.

Estimated farm marketing receipts are as follows. Wheat, \$5,393,000; oats, \$12,900; barley, \$780,000; mixed grain \$5,700; tree fruits and hay crops \$41,500; dairy products \$15,000, meat animals & wool, \$459,000, and poultry \$61,800.

Sub-soil moisture in deeper soils and the application of nitrogen fertilizer gave boost to 1955 crop results even with drought conditions. Shallow soil lands suffered from the drought conditions and did not benefit or experienced reductions due to application of fertilizers. Some farms reported near 50 bushel yields in deep soil areas. Some farmers, however, experienced 12 bushel wheat yields and a small acreage of barley was left uncut as not worth cutting.

Agricultural Planning Crops Big Story of Year; Schools, To Start Next Week With Council Meeting

The Sherman County Rural Advisory Council will meet January 5, county courthouse, Moro, T. W. Thompson reports.

Gordon Hood and Viola Hansen, district county agents for the Columbia basin, stationed at Corvallis will attend. The program will include a review of committee action and program reports of county extension service activities, and the development of major activities by the committees and extension service for the coming year.

The council and committees have as their purpose, to develop and aid in carrying on a county rural (farm, home and youth) program in cooperation with the extension service at OSC for Sherman county. Agricultural and rural living problems are studied and programs initiated in attempts to meet these problems.

The council assists in outlining major projects to be included in the yearly extension programs. Periodically the council and committees establish recommended management practices that will further aid the farm business in developing a sound agricultural program.

The Rural Advisory Council serves as the executive body of several committees and representatives of various organizations, which include Land Use, Weed Control, Farm Home & Rural Life, 4-H Leader's association, and Sherman County Wheat Growers association.

W. L. May, Grass Valley, serves as chairman of the council with Ted Thompson, vice-chairman. Other members of the council this year are: Vernon Miller, Gene Reynolds, Joe Heater, Mrs. W. E. Bruckert, Mrs. Lester Wilson, Bill Jefferies, Howard Ross, Leonard Fields, Mrs. Verne E. Mobley, Donald Thompson, Elton Medler. The two county agents, T. W. Thompson and Mrs. Ina B. Hanson are members of the council.

Soil Bank Plan To Be Discussed

Oregon farm leaders are scheduled to meet at OSC in late January to study and develop recommendations to the U. S. department of agriculture and congress on the much discussed "soil bank".

Some 35 agricultural leaders at a recent preliminary meeting at the college requested OSC officials to compile information on proposed approaches to the "soil bank" idea for reducing surplus farm production and saving soil for future needs.

F. E. Price, OSC dean of agriculture, has appointed a special committee to organize and digest all current proposals for study at the January session. He said representatives of all organized farm groups in Oregon will be notified as soon as possible of the exact meeting date.

Moro Personals

Gene Malecki, state chairman of the polio foundation, stopped in Moro a few minutes Wednesday while in eastern Oregon on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Belshee spent Christmas in Portland with relatives coming home Monday evening.

Burton Wood To Speak To PCA

G. B. Wood, head of the department of agricultural economics at OSC will be the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Mid-Columbia Production Credit association.

J. Merton Stein, association secretary-treasurer, said Mr. Wood's talk will follow the annual business session during which one director will be elected, financial report will be submitted as well as the directors' report.

Registration is scheduled to start at 11 a. m. and there will be a dinner at noon. Entertainment during the dinner hour will be provided by a string instrument group, under the direction of Glen Betchart, from The Dalles High school.

Mr. Stein said there would be a discussion period. The term of Director W. R. Bailey of The Dalles, Oregon expires December 31, 1955. An election will be held to fill the vacancy. Holdover directors include Carol Sayers, Moro; Edward L. Bates, Condon, Riddell; Lage, Hood River, Oregon; and Paul Davenport, Goldendale, Wn.

Crops Big Story of Year; Schools, Roads, Make Good News in 1955

It is always difficult in trying to determine the biggest news story of the year to overlook the crop unless it happens to be just average. This county is so completely agricultural that things other than farming are relatively unimportant.

This year the crop was average or about 2,500,000 bushels of wheat and some barley, mostly of poor grade. Compared to the 1940-54 period of a wonderful 15 year period this crop was poor, compared to the long time average it was good.

Other developments of note have been the serious effort being made to get a bridge built across the Columbia at Maryhill or at some place near there to connect Highway 97 across the river; the start on reconstruction of that highway through Sherman county; final approval of a new Union High school.

By weeks the news, Jan. 7: New county officers sworn in; Joe Morrison and Oscar Ruggles, two pioneers, buried.

Jan 14: Ben Galloway named JP succeeding R. O. Scott, III; farm conference planned.

Jan 21: Maryhill bridge plans started; Leon Moore buried.

Jan. 28: Moro basketballers continue to win, lead league.

Feb. 4: Burton Woods talks to stockmen at Grass Valley; Union high proposed by Grass Valley directors.

Feb. 11: School problems aired at county club meeting; Moro buys new street lights.

Feb. 18: Judge Wilson buried.

Feb. 25: Sam Sargent talks about geology to large group; court decides to speed road paving; Wasco cemetery installing sprinklers.

Mar. 4: Big wind does damage to buildings, TV towers; rains come to end dry month.

Mar. 11 Moro loses in semi-finals of basketball tourney; UHS approved by voters in Moro.

Mar. 18: Rufus defeats plan to transport high school to Wasco.

Mar. 25: Cold spring relaxes a little to permit farm work.

Apr. 1: Wasco school goes to the legislature to observe.

Apr. 8: Bridge plans furthered at Olympia meeting; relocation of Highway 30 ruins Rufus orchards.

Apr. 15: PP&L to build line between DeMoss and Klondike for REA. O'Mearas have 640 gpm well at Wasco.

Apr. 22: Rains encourage farmers; fair board starts planning.

Apr. 27: Women ask county for home demonstration agent; farmers think there is less support for quotas.

May 6: Moro wins baseball crown in Maupin game; new wheat to be released at stations.

May 13: Junior rodeo entrants heavy; county budget boosted; Hoopers buy Baumgartner motel.

May 20: Cold weather reduces junior rodeo crowd; schools plan graduations.

May 27: Union high approved; 1956 allotment given, 92,048 acres.

June 3: Grand jury starts work; 44 going to fat stock show.

June 10: Legislators come to explain actions; Jimmy Coons has best lamb at stock show.

June 17: Experts come to inform farmers about quota election; N. W. Haner hired for bridge survey.

June 24: Bigger school boards elected; Cushman buys out McKean.

July 1: Farmers approve quotas bigger than ever; Strand talks at Field day.

July 8: Crop conditions called good; June rainfall low.

July 15: Vernon Flatt, Vernon Van Gilder, Bill McLachlan all buried within few days.

July 22: Barley harvest often unsatisfactory; Richfield station plan.

July 29: Rain halts harvest; utility valuations up; cancer drive tops.

Aug. 5: Plan for recreation area at mouth of Deschutes started; sheep men vote on marketing quota.

Aug. 19: D. Van Gilder Red Hat day chairman; Barzee has field fire.

Aug. 26: OSC says rain making unjustified; two Indians found dead in county.

Sept. 2: Football starts with 32 man squad; Harold Duncan called best "B" game player.

Sept. 9: Sally Fields wins grand championship at State Fair. Farmers to get new wheats for field test.

Sept. 16: School registration up;

fair ends exciting program.

Sept. 23: Mail schedule speeded up; Midco readies Hereford sale.

Sept. 30: 4-H leaders awarded pins for work; teachers welcomed.

Oct. 7: Taxes higher as state returns ready; Sherman county farms grow.

Oct. 14: Rain comes to start seeding operations; PI draws young stockmen.

Oct. 21: Sam Coon, congressman, talks about John Day dam; Jury frees Gardner.

Oct. 28: Legion installs officers; Tom Monroe, mayor, hurt.

Nov. 4: Midco sale prices down; more moisture falls; Kasebergs win conservation plaque.

Nov. 11 Moro wins district football title; U. S. Bank buys Union high bonds; 4-H children get awards.

Nov. 18: Snow and cold weather break November records; Moro loses to Malin in quarter finals.

Nov. 25: Heavy rains boost soil moisture; Federal Plan petitions ready.

Extension Class

Will Start January 6

An adult evening class in History of Western Civilization (Hist 103) will be offered during winter term in Moro, beginning Friday evening and Saturday morning, January 6 and 7, under the evening class program of general extension division in the state system of higher education.

Meetings are scheduled for Moro high school on alternate Fridays from 7 to 9:45 p. m. and alternate Saturdays from 9 to 11:45 a. m.

Under instructorship of Frank Learned, Portland, the course is planned to consider the development of western civilization from early beginnings to the present time. A study will be made of political, social and cultural factors and present conditions and problems.

Registration for the course may be made on either a credit or non-credit basis. Three hours undergraduate credit are allowable. Fees for the course are established by the State Board of Higher Education to correspond with fees in effect on the various state system campuses. Basis of determining fees is at the rate of \$8 per credit hour.

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