

Sherman County Journal

Sixty-Eighth Year No. 39

Moro, Oregon Friday July 27, 1956

County Official Paper

These Things We Note

By Giles L. French

Business pays half of our social security, all of our unemployment costs and a good share of our general government costs through taxes. Let's kick it around.

T T W N

Now we are being told that fewer men will be needed in the army; atomic weapons will replace them. It was probably cheaper to fight with clubs and will be more expensive to fight with atoms. The death rate will be higher as we get more scientific, so the change doesn't amount to much.

T T W N

One has to be snobbish about those who are snobbish about the same things. For instance, one can't be snobbish about money except among those who revere it also, nor can one be snobbish about brains where they are not respected. And sometimes it hardly seems worth while.

T T W N

It has long been our opinion that Marxism and Russian communism are opposed to human nature and cannot survive except through terrorism.

T T W N

Even Lyndon Johnson, the senate Democratic leader, could not hold conservative Democrats in line against Hells canyon. Maybe they weren't too anxious to elect Oregon's senator again anyway.

T T W N

Oregon's board of higher education is contemplating construction of a parking lot at Portland State. Very educational.

T T W N

Been wondering why someone didn't use "give-away" in an ad until it came to us there were laws against misrepresentation in business.

T T W N

Women who have stayed with a worthless husband who occasionally beat her and supported her only fitfully, will understand farm allotments better than any casual observer.

T T W N

One wonders if opposition to private dams doesn't come from fear that private business would show up excessive costs of government dams.

T T W N

It is odd that we should put "In God We Trust" on our money. Are we trying to confound our materialists?

T T W N

The duty of the legislative department of government is to protect the people from the executive and judicial departments.

T T W N

We've been worrying a lot about the owners of boats along the Columbia and are very happy to do with fewer highways so they can have a place to launch their craft. Now if the state will just send us something besides a tax notice we'll try to be happy.

T T W N

If District Attorney Langley can't make a better presentation in court than he can in a newspaper he should be removed for incompetence.

T T W N

Perhaps the greatest of our errors is that a public or private ill can be ended by passing a law.

T T W N

After 80 years the American magazine has failed to guess correctly on the likings of American readers. And excellent record. Readers do not know what they want but do know whether they like it or not when published. Editing is like riding a bucking horse; you've got to outguess him or the ground'll catch you.

T T W N

We know good citizens who feel that the legislature will never repeal the 45 percent surtax on incomes on the theory that no government ever gives up any revenue once obtained.

T T W N

Unfortunately, perhaps, the value of humanity, like that of anything else is in reverse proportion to the numbers thereof.

Wheat Harvesting 80 Years Old In County Many Methods Used Over That Time

This is probably the 80th harvest in Sherman county and it will be one of the best although not as plentiful as 1948 when more land was in crop and yields so good it was a marvel.

It was back in 1877, or so we seem to remember, that Colonel Fulton pulled a little tread-power separator over Sherar's bridge from fifteen mile in order to thresh out a few acres of wheat he had grown. There had been threshing done before but it was done by driving horses over some cut grain and winnowing it out in the wind to get enough seed for another planting. Whether it counts or not, the reader can judge. Jess Eaton probably winnowed out seed wheat before any one.

The little Fulton machine didn't have much capacity but it did get grain through it, for himself and a neighbor or two, probably Price and Eaton. There weren't many more at that time. Horses were not fed grain in those days. They ate hay, mostly native grass hay. Price had hauled his hay from the Gould ranch for the stage horses he kept on the Sand Springs station. He needed lots of it. Others cut bunchgrass in a well watered draw and put up a little stack against a possible bad winter. Mostly the stock rustled grass through the winter.

The stock was mostly horses. The emigrants who had gone through this county disdained its succulent grass, were in need of horses to till the stiff Willamette valley soil and the stockmen raised them to sell across the mountains. There were some cattle but not many. They came later.

Harvesting improved, because there were more people, more acres to cut and more farm machinery being made all over the country. Bruno Medler came down from Walla Walla and soon had a header and a threshing machine. The machine wasn't a tread power but a full-fledged horse-power. Four to six spans of horses were driven around in a circle to turn a tumbling rod that drove the cylinder and the rest of the machine. They changed horses every half hour but the driver stood on the little platform atop the gears and cracked his whip all day long.

By the 1890s the county had a

steam threshing engine, not a traction engine. This one had to be pulled around by horses. The horses must have loved it for that 'round and 'round business was tiresome.

Then some enterprising manufacturer built a combine designed for the Sacramento valley where barley was grown on flat land. Horses pulled that, too, on solid hitches until the Shenandonah hitch was made to equalize the pull and give more control over the 27 to 39 horses of the team.

But it took combines years and years to drive out the improved separators and steam engines. With their big crews and custom threshing they served wheat growers unable to invest in a combine. They did leave the wheat in big piles and the straw ready for winter feeding.

In 80 years we've come quite a ways in farm machinery and have eliminated a lot of work, especially for the horses. In fact, we've eliminated the horses. That's what happens to anyone when his work is eliminated.

Legion Baseball Team Plays John Day

Sherman county's Legion baseball team had a field day against Burke's juniors at The Dalles Tuesday when they won 24 to 3 in the standard seven inning game. Brown was the winning pitcher allowing but six hits while a pair of Burke pitchers let the locals have 18 blows of which Harry Eakin got four for a good evening at bat.

Next game for the Sherman countians will be held at Grass Valley at two o'clock when they meet the John Day team.

It Was 102 And It Was Hot

Sherman county registered its highest temperatures since 1946 this past week when the mercury was chased up to 102 Thursday, the 19th. It was up to 100 Monday and then cooled off.

The 102 was not exceptional in Oregon where as much as 111 was registered during the same hot spell.

Anyway it was hot.

Early Harvest Returns Reported Better Than Good

Harvest has started in Sherman county and the first results are of the kind to make farmers happy. Reports are of yields of 50 bushels and farmers are inclined to raise their insurance, all of which means a better than expected crop.

There is some damage. Some of the Federation coming into the elevators is pinched and a report from Kent is that the spring grain there will show damage when cutting starts.

But in general the crop will be fine and the county is expected to produce an average of 30 bushels an acre or better and reach a total yield of 3,000,000 bushels of wheat from the 90,000 acres in that crop. Barley is generally good and there will probably be 50,000 tons of that harvested.

This week most of the cutting done will be north of Gordon Ridge and mostly east of Wasco where winter wheat did not freeze out to any extent. Some of this will be the highest yielding wheat in the county or expected to be. Harvesting has started on Starvation point where there is some good spring grain. It is probable that this year spring wheat will equal winter wheat in yields especially where winter wheat was thinned by the November freeze.

Farmers are finding that while a large part of a field is ready to thresh there are green kernels coming into the bin that will reduce the test weight and perhaps lower the quality. But they are going ahead anyway.

FARM LAND GETTING SHORT

Cities and industries are buying up farm land as they expand, which tends to hold up farm land prices. And in many areas close to cities, people are looking for part-time farms and rural residences, she explains. Some farm land is in demand for the timber on it.

The direction farm land values are likely to go is anyone's guess. But most land specialists in this region look for a downturn in the price of all classes of land, Mrs. Horrell says.

Farmers Vote To Keep Quotas and Commodity Loans

Vote on continuation of wheat quotas and allotments held last Friday was 198 for and 33 against in Sherman county. It was a smaller vote than has been common in the past.

Heretofore there has been some sort of a campaign for the program and some farmers active in talking about it. Neither were apparent this year with no perceptible change in the percentage of vote.

By districts the Locust Grove-Wasco area voted 105 to 15 for the Moro area 44 to 12 for and the Grass Valley-Kent district 49 to 6 for. As usual the largest percentage of votes against it has been at Moro.

PI To Hold 49th Stock Show This Year

Plans for the 46th annual showing of the Pacific International Livestock Exposition in North Portland, October 20 thru 27, 1956 were announced today by Walter A. Holt general manager. Popularly known as the "PI" show, interest has grown each year since its founding in 1910, and it is now recognized as the premier exposition of its type in the northwest, drawing in excess of 2500 entries in the open livestock showing. Entries are anticipated from 14 states and Canada, and the 4-H clubs and Future Farmers of America groups of the northwest will again display the results of their year's activity.

Ella Thompson Buried In Rose Cemetery

Donelson & Sewell Mortuary, in charge of arrangements, transported the body of Mrs. Ella Thompson to Moro for graveside rites at the Rose cemetery with Mrs. Eva Landry and the Eastern Star officiating, Saturday, July 21 at 11 a. m.

Mrs. Ella Thompson was born in Colorado on October 15, 1873, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Thompson.

She was married to Nelson W. Thompson at Monkland, Oregon on November 28, 1889.

To this union were born three children: a son, Harvey C. Thompson, of Hillsboro; two daughters, Mrs. Grace I. Busch of Hillsboro, and Mrs. Frances E. Henrichs of Marysville, California. All three children survive. Her husband predeceased her in 1941.

She passed away on July 18, 1956 at a Hillsboro nursing home after a lingering illness. She was 82 years of age.

Surviving in addition to her son and two daughters, are eight grandchildren and eighteen great grandchildren; two sisters, Mrs. B. B. Montag, Mrs. Edna Schwarzman; a brother, Layton Thompson, all of Portland.

Mrs. Thompson was a thirty-five year member of the Bethlehem No. 65 Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star, Moro, of which she was also a past matron.

Sherman Hotel Burns at Wasco Endangering City By Flying Brands

The Sherman Hotel at Wasco was completely destroyed by fire Saturday night. Steve McMillin's tavern was gutted and his pool room damaged and Dale's Clothing was threatened so seriously that the stock was hurriedly removed by helping hands.

The fire started about 10:30 p. m. in the basement of the hotel, probably from heating apparatus. Ed Clark, owner and manager of the hotel, was talking to a guest who smelled smoke. When he started down to the basement from the kitchen flame and smoke filled the first story and the alarm was given.

Because of the time only three guests were in the hotel at the hour and all were rapidly evacuated except Mrs. Ruth Fields who was taken from the second floor by firemen. Nothing was saved. The flames were so hot no one could be permitted inside the building after once out of it.

Guests Removed

Wasco firemen responded immediately and put water on the fire but without avail. Moro firemen were called and many cars of volunteers went to the fire but the whole lower floor was ablaze by that time. The Dalles sent a pumper to help the local firemen and they arrived in less than an hour, coming just as the roof fell in. Nothing remained to do except to keep the fire from spreading to other buildings. This firemen were able to do although brands flew for blocks to start fires. A stock of baled hay belonging to Phil O'Meara caught fire and was partly destroyed before scattered and wet down.

The Sherman Hotel was built in 1917 by a group of local citizens led by the late Roy Atwood when it appeared that the Columbia

Mrs. Thora Justesen Dies At 90 Years

Mrs. Thora Justesen died in a hospital in The Dalles last week at the age of 90 years.

Mrs. Justesen was born April 22, 1866 in Denmark and came to the United States when 19 settling with her parents at Omaha, Neb. There she married Fred Justesen and moved to Oregon, coming to Sherman county in 1901 and buying land east of Kent which has been the family residence to this time.

Surviving are four sons, Arthur, and Harry of Kent, Theodore of Tygh Valley and Roy of Sacramento, California; four grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Mrs. Justesen was a life long member of the Lutheran church and since World War I a member of the Legion Auxiliary at Kent. Funeral services were held Sunday from the Moro Community church with interment in the Moro cemetery.

river highway would leave the river at Fulton canyon and come through Wasco to the McDonald Ferry. Decision was made to stay along the river. It was a 36 room hotel, well built of hollow tile with stucco exterior, two stories and full basement.

The Steve McMillin tavern occupied the north part of the building on the ground floor and it was completely burned out. His pool room, in an adjacent building was less seriously damaged and can be used again.

Dales Clothing occupied the Atwood building next door north and the double brick walls kept the fire from it although goods were taken to another place.

Other Businesses Damaged

Firemen and volunteers spent most of their time wetting down the McMillin property for by the time they arrived it was plain to see that nothing could be done to save the hotel itself. Nearby residences were kept wet and men were scattered all over town with wet sacks to put out blazes starting from flying brands.

Estimates of the loss vary. The hotel building cost approximately \$100,000 to build in 1917 and would probably cost almost three times as much in these inflated times. Latest sale price of the hotel and equipment was understood to be \$50-60,000. Clark came here from Salem, having bought on contract from Earl Eskelson, who operated the business until a few months ago. McMillin's loss was in excess of \$15,000 and Dale's loss will be important although not from actual burning.

The tile walls remained standing, helping prevent spread of the fire to buildings across the streets but making more danger from flying bits of wood farther away which flew as if from a chimney. Nothing remains inside, not a bit of flooring, nor of heavy beams. All were burned clean.

Walls Protect Town

It is not likely that the building will be rebuilt nor attempts made to use any part of the ruin. The fire left the walls to weak and they will have to come down. Motels will be built, probably, to care for transients in the modern manner. McMillin will arrange to open up his business shortly and Dale Laughlin will find room to display his wares in the Legion building across the street until his building is ready for occupancy.

The fire was a serious blow to the economy of the county for it filled a need for housing that cannot immediately be replaced; it occupied a good location on Clark street, Wasco's main street, and although nearly 40 years old was a good solid building.

The Journal's pictures failed to arrive.

County Court Buys New Ambulance At Mid-month

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST SHERMAN COUNTY, OREGON, GENERAL AND ROAD FUNDS FOR JUNE, 1956, APPROVED JULY 5 TERM OF THE COUNTY COURT

GENERAL FUND: SHERIFF'S OFFICE: N. Fields \$70.00 official car; N. Fields, \$4.06, outside travel; Craig Office Supply, \$3.42, office expense; Sherman County Journal, \$2.50, printing; Sherman Super Mkt. \$0.98 incidentals.

CLERK'S OFFICE: N. Van Gilder, \$10.00, office expense; Kilham Stationery, \$5.71, office supplies.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE: W. Shaver, \$93.20

COURT HOUSE: Moro Postmaster, \$4.00-box rent; Pacific Power & Light Co., \$31.09; Pacific Tel. & Tel. Co., \$62.65; City of Moro, \$4.90; Moro Lumber & Fuel \$2.50; Bureau of Labor, \$8.50-furnace; Ranch & Home Store, \$5.70;

CIRCUIT COURT: John H. Newman, \$12.00 reporter's expense

COUNTY COURT: Miller \$95.95; Kuypers, \$29.20; Sather, \$30.00

JUSTICE COURT: City of Wasco, \$10.00-rent;

CORONER: Loy V. Cochran, \$5.30

PREMIUM ON OFFICER'S BOND: Geo. H. Wilcox, \$5.00-Coroner's bond

DEMOSSE PARK: Pacific Power & Light, \$2.43

COUNTY AUDIT: Charles R. Logan, \$150.00

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: \$18.75

LAW LIBRARY: Bancroft Whitney Co., \$101.00; American Law Book Co., \$102.50; West Publishing Co., \$183.00

COUNTY PRINTING: Sherman County Journal, \$43.51

COURT HOUSE INSURANCE: W. T. Balsiger Ins. Agency, \$374.66

EMERGENCY FUND: Stauffer Chemical Co., \$52.88; Pennsylvania Salt, \$36.00

ELECTIONS: George J. Geiser Jr., \$8.00-ballot delivery; Sherman County Journal, \$15.00

MISCELLANEOUS: First Na-

tional Bank, \$203.40; State Tax Comm., \$46.29; Social Security, \$92.58; State Ind. Acci. Comm., \$8.48

ROAD FUND: WAGES:

Schaumbetger, \$311.13; Lester Gray, \$327.19; Dunlap, \$427.60; McPherson, \$321.13; Bayer, \$346.84; Morehouse, \$306.84; Gosson, \$331.13; Shoemaker, \$352.90; Yocum, \$316.39; Johnson, \$301.13; Blagg, \$298.86; Axtell, \$306.56; Junker, \$304.03; Hammond, \$306.89; First National Bank, \$465.30;

State Tax Comm., \$104.81; Social Security, \$104.81; State Ind. Acci. Comm., \$6.50;

WEED CONTROL: Gordon Mitchell, \$240.33; First National Bank, \$42.60; State Tax Comm., \$5.90; Social Security, \$5.90; State Ind. Acci. Comm., \$3.38;

McFadden Auto Parts, \$1.93; Auto Electric Supply Co., \$125.49; RETIREMENT, \$110.71

MISCELLANEOUS: State Ind. Acci. Comm., \$105.17; Gray, \$11.66; Pac. Power & Light, \$19.67; City of Moro, \$1.75; Pac. Tel. & Tel. \$26.10;

REPAIRS: Smith Auto Parts, \$244.59; Service Motor \$23.32; Hydra-Lines, Inc., \$79.95; Feenaughty Mech. Co., \$1.80; Paul's Auto Service, \$23.57; Dalles Iron Works, \$104.10; Loggers & Contractors Mch., \$181.85; Truck & Indus. Equip. Co., \$0.74; Industrial Mtr. Pts., \$4.56; Auto Electric Supply Co., \$80.21; Interstate Tractor & Equip., \$932.51; Cushman Equip. \$124.02; Hooper's Union Ser., \$1.32;

QUARRY SITES: Feenaughty Mech. Co., \$4000.00; English & Co., \$2351.78; Draper & Adams, \$200.00

GENERAL SUPPLIES: Woodbury Co., \$3.71; Moro Lumber & Fuel \$33.26; Moro Grain Growers Ass'n., \$51.60

BRIDGES & CULVERTS: Moro Lumber & Fuel, \$27.30; The Dalles Concrete Prod., \$32.00; Tygh Valley Sand & Gravel, \$47.50; Beall Pipe & Tank Co., \$947.10

ROAD MACHINERY: Loggers & Contractors Mch., \$13,250.00; Int. Harvester Co.,

\$168.00

GAS & OIL: Shell Oil Co., \$561.89; Standard Oil Co., \$420.66; Moro Grain Growers Ass'n., \$44.40;

TIRES & TUBES: Cushman Equip Co., \$80.00

CONDENSED REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF JULY 5, 1956

TERM OF COUNTY COURT

Claims presented and allowed against all funds.

Treasurer's financial statement showing all fund balances as of June 30, 1956, presented, approved and ordered filed.

Road Fund Balances presented as of May 31, 1956, approved and ordered filed.

Re: Purchase of compressor-motion made and seconded to finishing paying for compressor which county had on a rental purchase agreement.

Re: Adoption of Budget for 1956-57—motion made and seconded budget be adopted as published.

Re: Road Department Records—Chas. Logan recommended to court extra help be obtained to keep necessary statistical data, daily report summary, wage record and other records pertaining to road department—matter taken under advisement.

Re: Road Employees salaries—Ordered to raise road employees five cents an hour beginning July, 1956. Starting pay to remain at \$1.55 per hour.

Re: Caretaker at DeMoss Spr., Henry Grabenhorst appointed.

COURT ADJOURNED

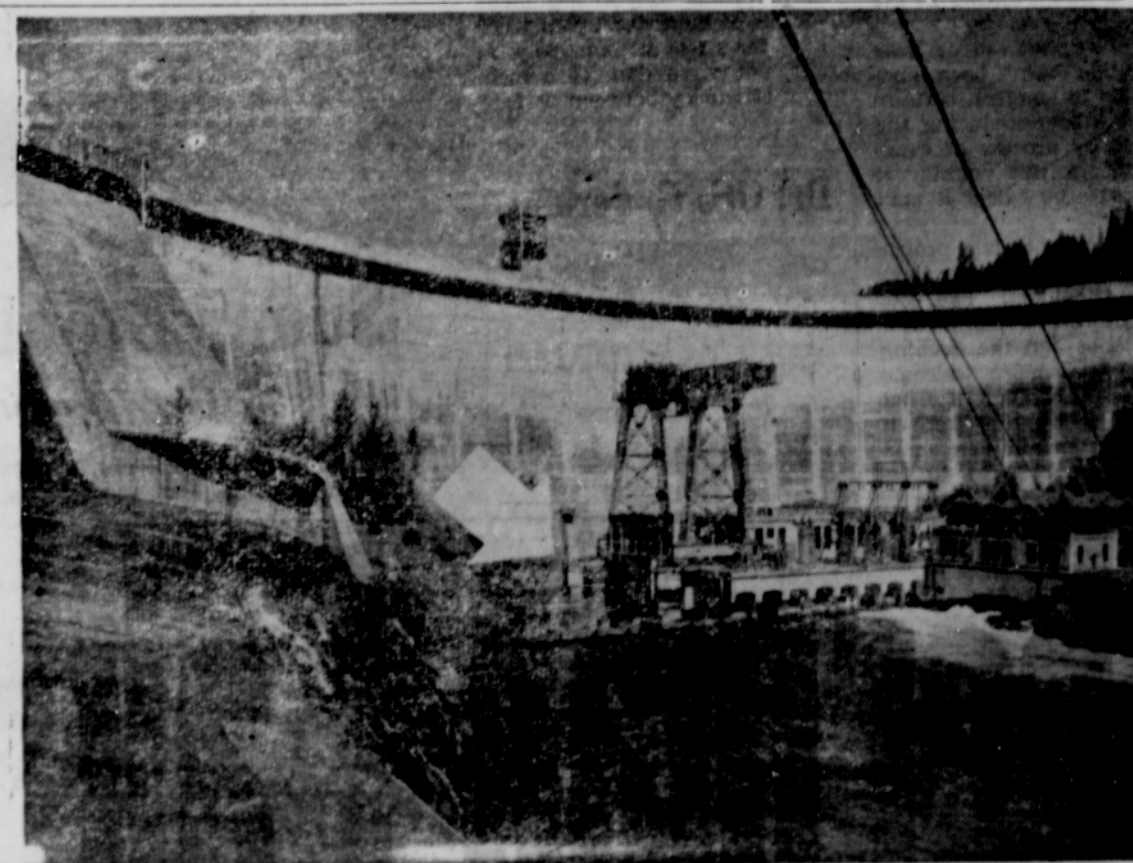
COURT MET IN SPECIAL SESSION JULY 12, 1956.

Re: Ambulance—Motion made and seconded purchase be made of 1956 Pontiac National Ambulance with necessary accessories. Delivery to be approximately September 19, 1956.

Re: B. P. A. representative, Gustafson appears before court re: legal width of base line road—matter taken under advisement.

Re: Highway No. 97 & No. 206—Court met with State Highway Commission and presented brief re: Highways No. 97 & No. 206, on July 13, 1956.

NO FURTHER MATTERS, AT ISSUE COURT ADJOURNED.



MORE POWER FOR NORTH-WEST will come from large new generator to be added at Merwin hydro project in \$5,000,000 expansion program just announced by Pacific Power & Light company. Arrow on face of big concrete arch dam points to location where new power house must be built to house 45,000-kilowatt unit. Merwin plant will still have space for an ultimate fourth generator.