

**Sherman County Journal**  
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Moro, Oregon

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**OFFICIAL COUNTY PAPER**

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Men and women and thoughtful youngsters are taking a little time out this week to think about the twelve month just passed to see what progress has been made and considering ways to make the next year better.

Politicians will be taking advantage of the time to prophesy great things done by their side and great danger if other ideas are adopted. It is a sort of annual event and we think that it might be an appropriate time to consider the changes in Sherman county and what they have brought.

A look at the news columns for the year show that the good crops that started, rather suddenly in 1940, continued for another year, and the 17th, and nearly every farm produced well. During this time many farmers have had poor crops but in no year has the county grown a poor crop over all. Rainfall was high and the year was good economically.

Nineteen fifty-six will be known as the year when all high school pupils of the county were brought together in one school. It is like having all the family home for a holiday and the new building is ready. Patrons will be very proud of it although there will be many who will find some thing they do not approve.

There has been progress on the campaign for a bridge at Biggs rapids although the county is but one of the governments working toward that end. The project seems nearer than it did a year ago.

Work started on a definite location for the John Day dam which will be built at Scofield rapids about three miles below the mouth of the John Day river. Work is expected to continue although it may be a year before the engineering studies are completed. Whether it will help the county or hurt it will not be known until it is built. Good or bad, it is progress.

Not much building has been done and this the county needs. There is room for at least 20 or 30 dwelling units and some firms could well use new commercial establishments, farmers could build new homes. On the debit side Wasco lost the Sherman Hotel.

The county remains strictly agricultural in outlook with business attuned solely to serving the farmers. With a bridge probable to close the final gap in a long international highway, with construction of a major dam hinged on one end to the county it may be high time for Sherman countians to begin thinking about commerce of a more extensive sort. That can be a project for 1957.

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

The Rural Fire Protection district law was amended in 1939 to make it workable and since then it has been generally adopted in much of Oregon. It provides that citizens of a given area may petition for formation of a district to the county court which holds a hearing. If it decides to hold an election a date is set.

When the district is formed it has five directors who hold office five years and have staggered terms. They may levy a tax of four mills on property within the district. The voters of the district may levy up to ten mills, and may issue bonds up to the value of five percent of the district.

Purpose of such a district is to prevent fires and put them out. Cities may not be a part of any district.

In actual operation most districts cooperate with a city which houses their equipment and furnishes manpower for fire fighting in understood exchange for use of equipment on town fires. It is felt by the state fire marshal and insurance companies that districts have reduced fire losses and saved lives.

As to the proposed one at Wasco and Rufus: It would be the largest in the state. It should not include territory south of Grass Valley canyon. The valuation of that district would be about \$4,300,000 and it could raise \$15,000 a year with moderate tax. The best equipment available can be bought for slightly under \$20,000 a unit which is a four wheel drive truck, with pumper, hard hose, fog nozzles, everything needed,

Two would be the minimum required. With housing it appears that within three years the district could pay for the equipment. Thereafter a tax of one mill should maintain it.

It is not probable that sufficient saving in insurance could be made to pay for the cost immediately, nor within ten years. After that it probably would. The saving would come in fire losses prevented.

Whether or not the residents and property owners of the area north of Gordon ridge have a district or not is strictly up to them. It is not state matter, nor a federal. The law is permissive in that any area can use it if it wants to. There is no coercion.

Distances are great but roads are usually good. Volunteers are generally available in towns. We have been having fewer wheat fires recently but we don't know how long that will last. In many years the county has lost enough wheat to pay for several fire trucks, fully equipped. And a modern fire truck can put out a wheat fire. Water is often scarce and there is no adequate provision in the county for getting it to a wheat fire. The old sack and barrel method is obsolete. A modern truck can carry 500 gallons, which with fog nozzles, will put out a fire.

It seems to us that the proponents of the district should provide voters with complete information about districts, fire equipment, cooperation with towns, costs, probable management. On that information the voters should be asked to decide.

**OREGON AND ITS TROUBLES**

Soon something will have to be done in Oregon toward establishment of a public tax policy that fits the state. For far too long we have been listening to the boosters and optimists who tell us that we have a "grea-a-t" state with a wonderful future in industry and shipping and tourist traffic, a state to which everyone wishes to come. And naturally therefore, we must levy taxes for this and that, and so and so.

The difficulties of being an attractive state for both industry and tourists may seem rather obvious to others as well as ourselves.

The fact is that Oregon is a very undeveloped state. It has many millions of acres that will never support much of anything but cattle and wild game. It has a comparatively little tillable acreage. Sherman countians might not believe that this county with 293,435 acres of tilled land out of its total of 531,590 acres has the highest percentage of tillable land of any county in the state and third in the whole state in tillable acres. Big Harney county has 176,275 acres under plow, Wheeler 35,503.

Oregonians should know that it is a rule of taxation that the greater the population the higher taxes. More services are required. The theory that we should get more people out here to help pay the taxes is not a tenable theory. That is especially true if the new comers are laborers who do not own property or directly aid in development of new wealth. In Oregon most of the new comers are cutting timber and making it into a more saleable form of wealth, not making new wealth. Timber pays a notoriously small percent of the taxes in Oregon.

At the University of Oklahoma the business research bureau has surveyed 500 manufacturers to find out what they want when looking for a new location. First is availability of markets for the product. Second is wages. Oregon's are highest in the nation. Third is abundance of labor. Oregon hasn't any large supply. One must go down to 14th (climatic conditions) before finding one that Oregon rates good. Low cost of power is not mentioned although availability and cost of utilities is 17th on the list.

All the foregoing is for the purpose of showing that Oregon might well adopt a tax program that fits its actual conditions instead of its wishful thinking. In fact, we are not sure that a majority of Oregonians want the state to become industrialized. Maybe they are old-fashioned, maybe just sensible.

Therefore, we doubt that the legislature should concern itself with trying to be the highest state in welfare payments, in unemployment benefits, in general aid to the lax and lazy. Few other states have as many state-paid services as Oregon. Without industry, without many rich men, why should Oregon continue to break its citizens trying to be Santa Claus. We doubt if it is wise; we even doubt if it is popular.

Farmer's part in the over all economy needs to be brought to the attention of the general public with more emphasis in this modern day and age. One of the farm organizations recently publicized farm consumption of six vital commodities in the over-all economy. They were as follows: trucks - 29%, passenger cars - 9%, Steel - 8 1/2%, and electricity 5%.

Wheeler McMillen, vice president and editor of the Farm Journal magazine, spoke during the annual banquet of the Oregon Wheat Growers league in Portland recently. Mr. McMillen's topic was "Some Guesses on Agriculture's Future". One of the important points that was brought out about the past needs special consideration in the future. He stressed the fact that this county was built and is what it is today due to the individual freedom and initiative available to American citizens. This is surely food for thought for American farmers.

We have several 1956 Farmers Tax Guides to assist farmers in completing their 1956 reports. These were available a year ago and were of much help to many farmers who secured them. If you desire a copy please give us a call, drop us a card, or drop by the office for your copy.

Two new bulletins are available for distribution to Sherman county farmers, one is "Performance of Wheat Varieties in Eastern Oregon". The use and place of the newly released varieties and their yields at various locations are included. A Pacific Northwest bulletin, "Insect Pests of Farm Stored Grain" is also available to assist farmers in their sanitation program on the farm. Pictures of several of the important insect pests of farm stored grain and use of fumigants are included.

On return from the All-Staff conference at Corvallis a visit was made to the department of Agriculture to inspect its new quarters and become more familiar with the various phases of this organization. Some of the items that are handled by this group are: administration of all agricultural laws, brand recording, Bang's testing, grain grading and analysis of commercial feed stuff and fertilizers.

A new federal order governing the interstate movement of animals and creating certain requirements with respect to testing or vaccination of cattle for brucellosis will go into effect January 1, 1957. All cattle moved interstate except steers, spayed heifers and calves under eight months old come under the federal order on that date. Sherman county farmers will shortly be mailed a folder spelling out the various requirements for interstate movement of cattle under this new order.

Many beef cattle operators in the state are now using the pregnancy test on their breeding herd at the start of the winter feeding period. This plan can save \$30 to \$40 per head in feed cost as well as saving labor. Luther Davis of Kent used this system a year ago on his herd. A regular veterinarian can do the best job of inspection rapidly and accurately.

Many home orchard and common garden diseases in shrubs, ornamentals and annuals are carried over from year to year on old dead leaves. Now is the time to rake up these leaves and dispose of them if it hasn't been done to date. Rose diseases such as rust and leafspot left over winter in this manner on old leaves either on plants or on the ground. Apple scab, pear blight and several others are reproduced on leaves or old falling petals.

Regular weekly immunization clinic Friday, December 28 at the health department offices from 9:00-10:30 a. m.

**Dr. Otis G. Perkins**  
Optometrist  
405 E. 2nd St.  
(Across from Stadlerman-Bonn Hardware)  
Phone 5362 The Dalles, Ore.

**Dr. Frank D. Reid**  
Dentist  
Moro Hotel Bldg. JO 5-3561  
Office Days: Tues. & Wed.

**Spencer & Libby**  
Funeral Home  
1000 KELLY AVE.  
enables the family to limit the cost to its needs or wishes.

**THAT WONDERFUL SECURE FEELING**

AS YOU WALK LIFE'S TIGHT-WIRE, IT'S COMFORTING TO KNOW YOU HAVE THAT BIG "CUSHION" UNDER YOU!

YOU CAN QUICKLY BUILD YOUR CUSHION BY SYSTEMATIC SAVINGS ON THE PAYROLL SAVINGS PLAN WHERE YOU WORK.

AND IF YOU'RE NOT ON SALARY GET YOUR BONDS IN THE BOND-A-MONTH PLAN AT YOUR BANK

REG-MANNING

**Work of Developing County Ramblin's New Wheats Difficult; Many Work At It**

Helping plant scientists select and develop new wheat varieties with superior milling qualities is the goal of a four-year study under way at the Oregon State college agricultural experiment station. The study includes work on a quick, inexpensive way to check milling quality of wheat.

Plant scientists need some way to easily determine milling quality of wheat lines used in breeding experiments in order that only wheats with desirable milling qualities are used as parent stock, according to Wilson Foote, OSC agronomist heading up the study. Present methods of determining milling quality require a fairly large amount of wheat, and are expensive and time consuming to run.

Foote reports that studies at the USDA western utilization laboratory, Albany, Calif., have indicated that differences in milling quality between wheat varieties may be predicted by the differences in milling quality between wheat varieties may be predicted by the differences in the amount of pentosan—a chemical compound found in wheat kernels—that can be extracted from wheat kernels with an acid.

Following this lead, the present study will try to simplify the acid-extracting process and work out a simple method for routine examination of large numbers of samples. The new method will be used to check the acid-extractable pentosan content of a large number of wheat varieties, and the pentosan values obtained will then be compared to the actual milling qualities of these varieties to establish whether pentosan content actually does indicate milling quality.

About 100 spring wheat varieties were grown near Pendleton this year and will be checked this winter, Foote says. And over 200 winter wheat varieties have been planted this fall for test next year. In addition, crosses have been made between good and poor milling wheats to study the inheritance of pentosan content.

The study is being supported by a \$22,000 grant from the western utilization branch of the USDA agricultural research service. Working on the study with Foote are Paul Weswig, agricultural chemist at OSC and Charles Rohde, agronomist at the Pendleton branch experiment station.

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**WANT ADS**

Custom Slaughtering by appointment only. Meat cutting, wrapping, sharp freeze. Kenny's Market, Grass Valley, Oregon. Call 242 for appointment. 7c

STRAYED: 23 head yearling registered Hereford heifers and a few steers. Branded: Lazy S over S on right side. Tattoo number in right ear. Three

Lupine Rebekal, Lodge No. 116 Meets 21st and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Visiting members welcome. Laura Grabenhorst, N.G.; Vada DeMoss, Secretary

Moro Lodge No. 113 I.O.O.F. Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in I.O.O.F. hall. Transient and visiting brothers are cordially invited. John Shipley, N. G. Leo Watkins, Secretary

Bethlehem Chapter No. 78 O.E.S. Meets every second and fourth Thursday in each month; visiting members invited. Moro, Oregon. Dorene Hall, W. M. Dorothy Heater, Secretary

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. Dean Pinkerton, W. M. Clyde Gilkner, Secretary

**WHAT'S DOING**

Cal Horn, your Telephone Manager

Listen, my little sweetheart...

This was the year you discovered that fascinating thing Mommy and Daddy call the telephone. Pretty wonderful, isn't it? But just you wait! Why, by the time you're grown—say twenty years from now—lots of wonderful things will have happened to your phone. You'll probably have one in every room of your home. Maybe you'll even carry a tiny one in your pocket. Combined telephone and television may be yours if you wish. All these things will come from never-ending telephone research—will come, too, from the men and women of Pacific Telephone, who work to make your telephone more useful every day.

**Let your Personal Number Book remember the number**

Do you find yourself with more than the usual number of phone calls to make this time of year: friends to call and thank, stores to phone, party arrangements to make? Well, now is the time to collect all these telephone numbers in one spot where they'll be easy to find the year around. And a good place to write them down is in this handy Blue Book. We'll be happy to give you one. Just call, write or drop in and see us. The Blue Book of Telephone Numbers is yours for the asking.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

The Dalles employees of Pacific Telephone join in wishing you and your family the best of health and happiness in the New Year. It is the hope of all that 1957 will bring understanding and peace between nations of a present troubled world. We can truly count our blessings for the precious privilege of being fortunate to live in America, to breathe the fragrance of freedom, and to live without fear.

Sincerely, Cal Horn

head strayed from mouth of Buckskin and rest from mouth of Ferry Canyon on John Day River. Any one knowing any of these call collect. Sid Seale, Condon, Oregon. 5-8c

**BEST ONE-MAN BUSINESS IN U.S.A.** Watkins Service Route now available this area. Established demand. No cash required but car necessary. For full information, write The J. R. Watkins Company, 3903 Brooklyn Ave. Seattle 5, Wn. 5-10c

**STATE WIDE PAINT CO.** complete painting and decorating service, spray or brush. Phone 3977 or 5293, 1205 E. 12th St. Vern Campell and Jack Null, The Dalles, Oregon 38fn

**HOW about a spotted pony for your boy or girl for Xmas?** He is gentle for any child. Only 6 yrs old, brown and white spotted. Can be seen at Wasco. Phone GI 2-5486. 7-7c

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned Iva Dams has been duly appointed as administratrix of the estate of Mary Lena Gibson, deceased, and has qualified as said administratrix. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified and required to present the same, duly verified as required by law, to the undersigned at the ranch of Iva Dams near Moro, in Sherman County, Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice, to-wit, December 28, 1956.

IVA DAMS, Administratrix of the estate of Mary Lena Gibson, Deceased.

**BROWN & VAN VACTOR**  
The Dalles, Oregon  
Attorneys for Estate 8-11c

**NOTICE OF FINAL ACCOUNT**  
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has filed in the County Court of the State of Oregon for Sherman County, her Final Account as Executrix of the Estate of Oscar N. Ruggles, deceased, and that Thursday, January 31, 1957, at ten o'clock A. M.

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Notice is hereby given that the undersigned Iva Dams has been duly appointed as administratrix of the estate of Mary Lena Gibson, deceased, and has qualified as said administratrix. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified and required to present the same, duly verified as required by law, to the undersigned at the ranch of Iva Dams near Moro, in Sherman County, Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice, to-wit, December 28, 1956.

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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
All persons having claims against the Estate of Mary F. Smith, (also known as Marie F. Smith), deceased, are hereby notified to present them in proper form to the undersigned, the duly appointed, qualified and acting executor of the Last Will and Testament of Mary F. Smith, deceased, at the office of T. Lester Johnson, attorney at law, Moro, Oregon, within six months from the date of this notice, to-wit: December 7, 1956.

T. Lester Johnson  
Attorney for Executrix 8-11c

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of said day in the court room of the County Court in Moro, Sherman County, Oregon, have been fixed by the Court as the time and place for hearing objections to said Final Account and for the settlement of said estate.

Allie Ruggles  
Executrix

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