

Sherman County Journal

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County Official Paper

These Things We Note

By Giles L. French

The political blast at the Oregon unemployment funds is timely. With the legislature meeting and also congress it is a good time for the critics to sound off. Let the people judge. At budget making time Oregon had over \$91 million dollars available for unemployed and the fund has been growing being \$74 million at the previous session.

T T W N

Democrats are taking advantage of the president's proposal to give possible aid to the Middle East to give Mr. Dulles a going over. While he has undoubtedly made his mistakes we think he'll go down in history as a pretty good Secretary of State. And probably the critics really think so.

T T W N

It is good to see Oregon's governor get around the state and talk to various groups. That is what he does best.

T T W N

Had the Oregon senate continued its deadlock until May it would have been a great help to the taxpayers. They couldn't raise taxes as long as they didn't organize.

T T W N

Rulers of other nations come to Washington for money, pressure groups send men to Washington for more money. The government of the United States is the softest touch the world has ever known for both foreigners and natives. The question is: Will we elect a man strong enough to say NO before we go broke?

T T W N

You might as well know it; there will always be a shortage of teachers as long as teachers are in control of qualifications.

T T W N

The Oregon house of representatives has the money bills written at the first of the session instead of the last, which is the common way. It makes the total look big but makes little difference in the long run.

T T W N

No change that has been suggested in the basic school fund will help Sherman county. But there may be one later.

T T W N

When the temperature is 20 below and a friend says, "Good Morning!" he is being polite and it should not be taken as an expression of opinion.

T T W N

An expert says that old folks move slower. Nice bit of research. Maybe the old folks have found it unnecessary to jump.

T T W N

At this rate a man could spend a winter in Mexico for what he will spend for fuel here.

T T W N

Never thought we'd see so many happy at zero weather. Good, though after 20 below.

T T W N

Governor Holmes, in his decision to fire Real Estate Commissioner Johnson, makes it evident that his is to be an administration guided by politics.

T T W N

Out in the west where citizens know Dave Beck they are not surprised at his attitude about racketeering.

T T W N

Secretary Wilson is in trouble again for speaking his mind, about the national guard this time. We like these tough old individuals who have nerve to say what they think. They're refreshing.

T T W N

Congress might well consider paying off some of the debt before starting a lot of new and expensive projects.

T T W N

Retirement is made easy for oldsters who are to get more in a year than they had paid in a life. It is the youngsters who will pay and pay. Getting something for nothing is always a precarious business and oldsters may find themselves working again.

T T W N

Every time we see that picture of that unhappy looking individual between Eisenhower and Warren at the inauguration we wonder if he isn't Democrat.

PP&L Increasing Facilities Here To Meet Demand That Doubled In Past Five Years

New substations built at Arlington and Wasco were among a number of substation improvements built or installed during the past year in Wasco, Wheeler, Gilliam and Sherman counties for which the company spent approximately \$380,000 to meet the future needs of customers.

Use of electricity by customers served in district area during the year totaled 99,489,575 kilowatt hours, an increase of 110.8 per cent over the annual use of only five years ago, Thrasher reported. Growth of the area during the period has added 52,304,198 kilowatt hours to the annual consumption, an amount that exceeds the 47,185,377 kilowatt hours used by all district customers in 1951.

The upswing in the use of electricity parallels a heavy construction program carried out within the district since 1951. Thrasher reported that Pacific has spent approximately \$2,500,000 for these improvements and expansions during the five years.

Other important phases of the past year's work were the rearrangement of substation facilities at The Dalles substation, the conversion of the Tygh Valley substation to higher capacity and the installation of regulators at stations in Fossil and Olex for closer control of voltage.

Work in the Tygh Valley sector involved changing the lines from single-phase operation to three-phase operation to meet the heavier, future loads of customers. The survey work for a new 69,000-volt transmission line which will connect The Dalles substation with the main 69,000-volt transmission line between Columbia Heights, Dufur and Tygh Valley was nearly completed by the end of the year. The three-mile tap-line is designed to improve future service in The Dalles area.

Thrasher reported the company has undertaken a major construction program which will double the company's electric generating

capacity by 1958 and help meet the rapidly increasing regional power needs. The developments will add more than 350,000 kilowatt of power generating capacity to the system, the district manager said.

Major phases are the Swift project on the Lewis river in southwestern Washington, which will have 204,000 kilowatts of hydroelectric generating capacity, and the installation of a third generator at the Merwin hydroelectric plant on the same river.

Big Barn Burns On Five Below night

The big barn on the Ragsdale place (Martin Hansen place) burned to the ground last Thursday night taking with it 17 tons of hay and 20 tons of chaff, two dairy calves and minor articles not yet determined.

Bill Todd, who farms the place noticed the fire shortly after it started in the northwest corner of the barn, defective wiring being the cause. Neighbors came as fast as they could but in half an hour the barn was a total loss. All stock was removed from the barn except the two calves.

The barn was a big one 54 x 76 feet and built in the days when big horses and mule teams were used to farm the place.

Highway 97 Gains In Traffic Use

Oregon highway traffic recorded by the State Highway department at 29 rural automatic traffic counters indicates a statewide traffic increase of 3.6 per cent in 1956 over 1955.

On US-30 gains of 9.4 and 11.2 per cent were recorded west of Pendleton and north of Huntington. On US-99 at the Interstate Bridge, north of Portland, an increase of six per cent was revealed, while the traffic recorder north of Grants Pass registered a 9.3 per cent gain.

Three recorder stations on US-101 south of Oceanlake have shown an average growth of nearly 9 per cent.

A gain of 11.5 per cent was revealed on US-97 south of Madras, while recorders located south of Bend and south of Klamath Falls reflected slight declines.

February 11 Date For Sherman High School Dedication

The new Sherman high school building will be dedicated at a meeting to be held in the school cafeteria at eight o'clock the evening of February 11, announced Ward Sybouts, superintendent Wednesday.

During the day the school will be open to the public which may visit the school and inspect it at their will. Classes will remain in session unless the crowd becomes too large so that parents can see what goes on in the new building. In the evening the official program will be held with Clyde Beard, superintendent of schools in The Dalles, giving the dedication address. Mr. Beard is well known in this county, having spoken here on numerous occasions to many groups. Also on the program will be Harold Eakin, chairman of the high school board. Music will be furnished by the school band and the chorus.

Sherman high school was first used for classes January 2 at the termination of the Christmas holidays. Construction began last spring with Wall, Bartram & Sandford as contractors. Annand, Boone & Lej were the architects.

The building is less than a mile southwest of Moro between the old and new Sherman highway routes. A huge gymnasium is at one end and a somewhat smaller cafeteria at the other. Between are class rooms suitable for 150 high school pupils. The athletic field is south of the school house and was finished with the aid of local school patrons who donated their time and the use of machinery to grade the grounds, gravel the parking strips and cinder the track.

Construction of the building is a matter of considerable pride to Sherman counties and is expected to be a greater source of pride to the youngsters who graduate from it.

TRAFFIC GAINS

Traffic for the month of December shows an identical 3.6 per cent gain over December, 1955, as that for the state as a whole. Snow conditions early in December tended to hold down the monthly increase.

Tax League Debates Problems; Wants \$300 22 Below Zero Income Exemption, No Homestead Reduction

Sherman County Tax league members spent over three hours Tuesday night talking about taxes, digging out information about income, sales and property taxes and reading reports about taxes.

During the course of the evening the group decided that if Oregon is to depend on income taxes for the main part of its income the exemption should be reduced to \$300 for an individual in order to broaden the base and collect money from those who benefit most from government.

Discussion of the reappraisal programs in several counties and the incipient war over taxes in Multnomah county brought a decision among the group to oppose a homestead exemption. With personal property used in homes already exempted from taxation this seemed no time to give another.

A motion for economy in government met a hearty response and not one in the group expressed willingness to pay additional income taxes for more basic school benefits.

Wallace May and W. S. Holmes were chosen to represent the Grass Valley and Kent communities on the board. The next meeting will be held Wednesday night, February 13 at the court house.

Health Conference Due In The Dalles

The Eastern Oregon Health conference will be held Saturday, February 2, Junior High School, The Dalles, starting at 9:30 p. m. with a noon luncheon at 12:00 and a continuing program until 3 p. m. Representatives from organizations in Sherman county have been asked to attend and participate in the conference.

Main speakers include two directors of the Oregon State Board of Health, Portland and Dr. Richard Wilcox, director of local health services, will speak on "Health and You", and Dr. John Waterman, director of the mental health division, will discuss human behavior problems.

Another highlight of the morning program will be a skit on mental health, "The Room Upstairs," directed by Mrs. R. M. Johnson, Wasco.

An afternoon symposium "The Health Dollar" will include the following discussions: county health services and facilities, Mrs. Metra Lee, staff nurse of the Wasco-Sherman county public health department; health insurance by Don Lewis, The Dalles insurance agent; hospital services, Nelson Ammons, administrator of The Dalles hospital; dental care, Dr. Frank Reid, Rufus-Moro dentist; and treatment of diseases, a doctor to be announced later.

Dr. James H. Stewart, Salem, consultant for the state department of education's vocational rehabilitation division, will summarize the conference at 3 p. m.

County Road Weeds To Get Sprayed

Continuation of the spray program along county roads and greater research efforts on morning glory control were recommended during the recent Sherman County Weed Control committee meeting, County Agent T. W. Thompson, states.

Intensification of research work for control of eradication of morning glory was given top consideration. Limited personnel on weed control research doesn't allow further expansion of projects. Dropping of some other projects such as annual weeds in grain were recommended to allow more time for morning glory. Recommendations for weed research were forwarded to F. E. Price, dean and director, Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station, OSC.

The annual spray program along county roads was recommended to continue. Success was not as satisfactory in 1956 as in previous years due to continued rain and the failure to spray re-growth of annual weeds. The group recommended continuation of the program in whatever manner necessary to accomplish the job.

Initiation of a perennial weed sterilization and staking program along county roads was recommended. Greater coordination is needed to locate patches throughout the county. Farmers were asked to locate and stake perennial patches notifying a designated farmer in the area, weed man, or county agent, during the coming season. Colored stakes to designate type of weed will be available through the county.

The Weed Control committee meets periodically to consider weed program of the County Court, make recommendations for research work, and direct the county agent educational and demonstration program during the year. The group recommended the county agent continue to work with the county road program, and conduct demonstrations and trials on cheatgrass and rye control, quackgrass control in fields, and sterilization trials on morning glory.

Operation costs for the 1956 county annual and perennial weed program amounted to \$2,700. Cost per mile of road spraying ran slightly over \$5.00. Costs include labor, spray materials, truck operation, and depreciation on equipment. Spraying costs are insignificant compared to grading and handwork estimated at \$100 to \$150 per mile by Clyde Gillmor, state highway foreman, Moro.

County Agent Writes of Agricultural Problems

The winter issue of Oregon's Agriculture Progress, issued by OSC has really caused a stir among Sherman county farmers. An article on "Better Weed Control With New Chemicals" indicates that a new material on trial at the Pendleton branch experiment station, showed that the material killed 99% of all morning glory in a single application. The material in question is known as Trichlorobenzoic acid, which is said to be available in 1958, where applications of 10 to 40 pounds per acre should be used. Rates up to 40 pounds per acre were applied in the fallow year and had no appreciable effect upon the crop the following year.

Checking further into these statements I found additional information, which should be of interest to county farmers. Experimental trial work has been done by Dean Swan of the Pendleton branch experiment station, who also does research work on weeds here in Sherman county. Applications of various materials were made at bloom stage in July 1955 and data taken in July 1956. Results showed that three pounds of active material per acre controlled 49% of the morning glory compared to 20% for three pounds of 2, 4-D amine. At heavier rates 40 pounds per acre the Trichlorobenzoic acid abbreviated as TBA controlled 99% of the perennial weed compared to 95% with 80 pounds, 2, 4-D amine. Indicator rows of wheat were sowed in the plots to determine if residual injury might occur. Results showed that there was no reduction in stand or in vigor of the wheat planted in the plots that had been sprayed with the TBA.

The article and information is of extreme interest and we hope proves correct. It is indicated that the material should be available commercially for use in 1958. By that time, three years testing work will have been completed at the Pendleton station and more concrete conclusions can be drawn.

Other materials mentioned in the article on new chemicals are: Amino Triazole as control for Canada thistle, horsetail rush, which occurs in the northern part of the county, cattails, quack grass, poison oak, and German mesquite; 2,4-d-B or MCPB for control of broadleaf weeds in seeding or establishing alfalfa, clovers or pastures.

The magazine also includes articles on "When it pays to fertilize wheat", "Plastic mulches for vegetables", "Carryover nitrogen can up wheat yields" and other items of interest. Any farmers not now receiving this magazine may notify the county agent's office or return a check slip that will be sent to Sherman county farmers in the near future.

Recently we received a grasshopper outlook survey for Sherman county from R. W. Every, extension entomologist, OSC. The plant pest control branch of the U. S. department of agriculture annually runs surveys during the late summer to check infestation on grasshopper and possible buildup for the coming year.

Survey was made in the lickskillet area, Rutledge area, and the Biglow area of Sherman county. Infestation was found to be only one grasshopper per square yard. During 1955 the survey showed 15 grasshoppers per square yard, which is near the critical point. The hard winter of 1955-56 probably destroyed most of the hopper infestation.

The recent issue of the Pacific Wool Grower cites a cheap simple way of boosting wool yields by hormones as tested in New Zealand. After three years of experiments, in which sheep are given an extra supply of hormones that stimulates wool growth it has been found that wool yields increased on an average of 13 1/2%, which is about 1 pound on an 8 pound fleece. The wool is also a finer quality.

The hormones used in the experiments is commercially available and is administered with a small gun with implants, similar to stillbirth for cattle. If good results continue it is hoped that supplies of the hormones will be on the market during 1957.

During the recent Soil Conservation District annual meeting,

Merrill Oveson presented information on nitrogen trials conducted at Pendleton on growing wheat when applied in the spring. The purpose of the trial was to determine the difference between nitrogen in the form of ammonium nitrate applied on top of the ground and ammonium nitrate placed in the ground along with anhydrous ammonia. The results of the trial indicate that dry fertilizer placed into the ground responded as well as anhydrous ammonia placed. Check yields ran around 28 bushels, where 30 pounds of nitrogen was applied in a dry form on top of the ground the yield was 35, and where 30 pounds of dry and 30 pounds of anhydrous was placed the yield was 38 bushels.

During the recent district meeting I presented 10 points of the use of fertilizers in Sherman county. These results are based on three years cooperative fertilizer trials on thirty farms throughout the county. General conclusions to date are: (1) 5 to 6 foot soils may use 30 to 40 pounds of actual nitrogen (2) 4 foot or less soils can use 20 pounds of nitrogen (3) fall application is generally superior to spring applications (4) leaching of nitrogen is definitely a problem in the Ritzville soil type area in the northern part of the county. Fall seeding between September 20 and 25 is desirable in this area if seeding is not done by this time the use of urea type fertilizer or injection of some form of nitrogen fertilizer into the growing crop in the spring may be necessary (5) leaching is not a problem from Gordon ridge south (6) soils in the county do not respond to other fertilizers such as sulphur and phosphorus in most areas (7) phosphorus may be needed in the deeper soils in the Grass Valley to Lickskillet area (8) past cropping history, erosion and management practices are important factors in rate of nitrogen to apply (9) present management practices whether moldboard or stubble mulch must be considered (10) carry over of nitrogen from one crop to the next occurs when all of the nitrogen is not used in previous crop.

22 Below Zero Nights Chill Sherman County

After what was probably the coldest week in the recent history of Sherman county the mercury rose to a comforting thirty-two degrees about nine o'clock Wednesday night and the soft chinook came over the hills to warm the frozen countryside.

It was really cold. Friday night it was an official 22 below zero and Saturday night was the same. Minor relief came Sunday night with a low of 21 below and by Tuesday night 13 below was the best the weather man could do. Relief came steadily after that. The above are official temperatures, taken at the experiment station. Other thermometers, in different parts of the county, registered 34 and 31 below and other varying temperatures.

It has been colder and recently. February 2, 1950 it was down to 23 below one night at the station. In January of that year it was down to 17 below and in 1930 it got down to 18 below. But this cold spell came and stayed.

At Moro there was very little wind, strangely enough, because wind blew from the east Tuesday at Wasco and Wednesday the snow blew the roads full around Grass Valley. Snow slowed school buses southeast of Moro Wednesday.

Pipes were frozen all over town and one four inch main was frozen solid due to hydrants not being drained when the fire department practiced last fall.

There is a covering of six to eight inches of snow over most of the fields and despite the cold there is little apprehension about the wheat. Stubble fields are dry and the ground is not frozen deep for lack of moisture.

The next home game is against Arlington Monday night, February 4 at 8:00 p. m. at the Sherman high school gym.

Playing for Moro are Don Thompson, Bob Martin, Keith Thompson, Jim Taylor, Harold Brown, Dick Rust, Al Blake and Doug Alley.

Teachers Salaries Raise \$372 in 1956

The average salary of classroom teachers in Oregon is \$4,664 according to a study just released by the Oregon Education Association Research department. Comparisons with last years salaries show an average gain of \$372. 1955-56 salaries averaged \$4,292.

The average salaries of all teachers in first, second and third class districts in the state were shown to be \$4,524 for elementary teachers, \$4,695 for junior high teachers in first class unified districts, and \$4,999 for senior high teachers. Current averages for administrators were: elementary principals, \$6,161; junior high principals in first class unified districts, \$6,733; senior high principals, \$6,830, and superintendents, \$7,795.

The average salary of high school teachers in a first class unified district is \$5,200, union high first class district \$4,897, second and third class district \$4,481, second and third class unified districts \$4,497. Larger districts have greater average salary payments, according to the information reported.

Wheat Growers Have New & Better Wheats

Oregon wheat growers soon will be in a much better position to meet the needs of customers both at home and abroad, whether they want a protein-rich hard wheat for bread and rolls or a top-quality soft wheat for cakes, pastries and biscuits.

As a result of variety improvement programs, seed supplies of three new wheat varieties were available last fall for planting a substantial acreage, the Oregon Wheat Growers league said this week.

In Burt and Columbia varieties, growers have two new high-yielding hard wheats capable of producing high protein wheat for bread flour in drier areas. The Pacific Northwest has not been producing enough of this type of wheat to meet the growing domestic and foreign demand, with the results that substantial quantities are being shipped in from other areas.

Columbia, a hard red winter variety, is especially adapted to low rainfall areas. Burt, a hard white winter wheat, is rated as an excellent performer in intermediate rainfall areas.

All Boys Must Register At 18

Mr. T. J. Carson, chairman of local Selective Service Board No. 26, states: "The currently reduced monthly calls for induction in Oregon has resulted in an increased letdown of prompt registration by young men upon reaching the age of eighteen years. Young men are coming in to register anywhere from two weeks to several months after their eighteenth birthday. He further says, "This is not a willful disregard of the Law in most instances, but is considered to be an oversight. It is a condition, however, that should be promptly corrected". He concluded with a warning, "Even though inductions may continue to be very light, and to a large extent may be filled by those volunteering for induction, the Universal Military Training and Service Act still requires every young man to register with Selective Service at the local board office or with an appointed Registrar within five days after he attains the age of eighteen."

Social Security Tax Explained

The 265 farmers of Sherman county, who will shortly be filing a combined income tax and social security return for 1956, are reminded that the social security provisions for reporting farm income have been changed to further benefit the farmer, Carl Redman, field representative, Social Security administration, announced today. The revisions are designed to provide the small farmer particularly with a more favorable basis for figuring this social security payments, he said.

The new law permits a farmer with a gross income of \$1800 or less during 1955 to use either his actual net earnings for social security purposes, or 2/3 of his gross farm income, if it is at least \$600.00. If his gross income exceeds \$1800, but his net earnings are less than \$1200, he may report his net earnings as \$1200. This new method may be used by farm partners as well as by individual farm operators. Moreover, it applies alike to farmers who keep their records on the accrual basis and those who use the cash method.

The self-employment tax on 1956 farm income is 3 per cent of the net earnings up to the maximum of \$4200. For the years 1957 through 1959 farmers will pay 3 3/8 per cent of their taxable farm income. While the 1956 social security law increased the self-employed tax rate starting with 1957, farmers this year will be reporting on 1956 income and therefore the tax rate is 3 per cent, he concluded.