

Sherman County Journal

Sixty-Ninth Year No. 26

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County Official Paper

These Things We Note

By Giles L. French

For the life of us we can't see what difference it makes whether fifty per cent of school costs are paid by the state or not. It does put payment on a larger unit and makes it harder to check and control. But it does look like any community should be able to afford more than half its school costs.

TTWN

Psychologists say that being weaned is one of the really shocking events in the life of a human. Certainly it causes no little bawling and evidence of neurosis on the part of domestic animals. That humans never entirely overcome their objection to being removed forcibly from the sustaining teat is evident in the politics of the country. A group once given aid by the government, soon insists that it is a right and puts up a holler at its removal or reduction that makes a coral full of weaning calves sound like the babble of a peaceful brook.

TTWN

The Oregon legislature has practically agreed that a child is not responsible for his parents. How unfortunate that parents cannot do the same.

TTWN

One sunny day does not make a summer but it does make one per cent of one.

TTWN

Congressmen returned to Washington more confirmed than ever that their opinions are correct. That is because they talked to those who basically agree with them while on vacation.

TTWN

The reason government costs so much is that legislators hear more from tax spenders than tax payers. The way to reduce it is for taxpayers to do more talking about it. Silence is golden.

TTWN

On a rough bluff along the Deschutes swallows were engaged in the biologic process of nest building which required swerving and exciting gestures reminiscent of an American Legion convention accompanied by chirping as intense as a gathering of the AAUW. No swallow should have missed it. White River, named because it carries the white detritus from a Mt. Hood glacier, is still putting this material in the Deschutes causing it to be murky. The wild currants are in bloom but the trees are slow in putting out leaves even down in the gorge where the days are often hot enough for summer.

TTWN

Poor Texas. It has all its dry weather in one spell and then gets five years of rain in one week. That's what comes from exaggeration.

TTWN

Most of the people we know are more in need of a stimulator than a tranquilizer.

TTWN

It begins to look as if the legislature will adjourn before Memorial day. If so the day will be more of a holiday.

TTWN

A magazine has a series of interviews about Modern Republicanism and Modern Democracy. The adjective seems to indicate a willingness to compromise with formerly held principles for political gain in both instances.

TTWN

Now Oregon, which already has been charged with having too many boards, has chances for another one, an auctioneer's board. For louder voices and better jokes no doubt.

TTWN

Anyway the Portland troubles should help the lawyers.

TTWN

Overheard: "He's the age to think middle age begins at thirty."

TTWN

Eating used to be Americans' biggest expense; now it is government.

TTWN

At Salem the Oregon house of representatives has installed loud speakers over which even the mumbly and feeble voiced may be heard. It was always our feeling that if one was not sufficiently imbued with the justice and equity of his belief to be heard in that hall he'd better keep still and save time.

Assessment Card To Notify Owner Of Valuations

by Clair Balzer

On or before the 6th of May, Sherman county taxpayers will receive notices of assessment from the assessor's office. These notices will inform the taxpayers of the assessed value of their real property for last year compared to the assessed value for this year. These notices are usually sent out only for an increase in assessed value, but due to the reappraisal, some of the properties will show a decrease.

Another function of the notices is to furnish the taxpayer with a record and an explanation of the tax lot number assigned to his property, which will be found on the front of the notice.

Each notice sent out will contain the tax lot number assigned to a given section or sections of land, a parcel of land described by metes and bounds, or a city lot or lots. On the back of the card, the property as assessed last year, will be listed. In some cases, parts of several sections will be listed under one tax lot number, the only requirement necessary to do this is that the property must be adjoining and in the same school district.

In prior years, the largest acreage under one account number was one section or 640 acres. Under the tax lot system, as high as 2500 acres or more may be listed under one tax lot number. This will cut down to some extent, the number of tax statements received by the various taxpayers. One exception to this will be found in the towns, where one-half of a block is the largest parcel assessed under the tax lot system, unless a street or alley is closed, or there happens to be an adjoining parcel of land.

About 2000 notices will be sent out to property owners. Anyone with questions or desiring further information, may contact the assessor's office for information.

Auxiliary Head Due In Moro

Mrs. Frances Grund, president of the Oregon American Legion Auxiliary, accompanied by Mrs. Martha Carns, district 5 president will be guests of the auxiliaries of the county at the Odd-Fellows hall in Moro on Friday May 10. The meeting will convene at 10:30 a. m. as the officers are coming from Tygh Valley that day.

Mrs. Mollie McLachlan, chairman for the visitation, says that cost of the luncheon will be one dollar and that this will be the only opportunity for local members to meet Mrs. Grund this year. She urges all workers in the units to attend the meeting and luncheon.

Conservation Tour Coming Tuesday

The annual Conservation Tour for Sherman county 7-8th grade students is scheduled for May 7, states T. W. Thompson, county agent. The event starting at 9:30 a. m. from the Wasco school will visit several farms in the Wasco-Moro area and complete the tour with a visit of the Sherman branch experiment station. Anyone is welcome to follow along.

The days program has been planned to draw attention to the importance of conservation or wise use of Oregon's natural resources and show some of the work being done on the local level, Thompson says. Arrangements for the tour and program have been a cooperative endeavor by the following: Wasco Woman's Club, County School Superintendent, Oregon State Game Commission, USDA Soil Conservation Service, OSC Sherman Branch Experiment Station and the County Extension Agent personnel.

Tour agenda for the event is as follows. Assemble Wasco School at 9:30. Delmer Smith—observe trashy fallow and roadside cheatgrass control plots; L. E. Kaseberg—alfalfa-grass rotation on crop ground; Elton Medier—Fubert wheatgrass waterway to carry off excess water; Vernon Melzer—farm windbreak; Thompson Brothers—fertilizer trial on wheat; Ernie Woods—improvement planting and water gully; John Shipley—roadside grass planting; Sherman Branch Experiment Station—observe trials on station dealing with soils, grains, grasses, legumes and trees.



What remains of the car of Jack Brady, who traveling an estimated high speed, skidded 180 feet, hit a bank and rolled 140 feet more near Celilo, Wednesday night of last week. He is in serious condition at a hospital in The Dalles.

How To Appeal On Assessments Told

Oregon's property taxpayers have until May 18 to file petitions with the county boards of equalization for the correction of property assessments, Samuel B. Stewart, state tax commission chairman, has announced. Taxpayers who feel that their property is assessed too high should obtain the necessary petitions from the county assessor or county clerk, Stewart said.

All county boards of equalization will convene Monday, May 13, to make the annual review of assessments. Oregon law provides that a property owner may appear in person or may be represented by his attorney before the board of petitions for reductions of assessments.

The posted ratio in Sherman county this year is set at 30%, according to Clair Balzer, county assessor. Taxpayers, by converting assessed value to true cash value using this posted ratio, can test the assessment on the property he owns. True cash value by law is set at 80% of the market value for real property, but for personal property such as merchandise, livestock, farm equipment, etc., true cash value is usually 100% of market value.

To test the value placed on the property by the assessor, the taxpayer would have to make two calculations, first, to find the true cash value, and second, to find the market value. The first computation is to divide the assessed value as shown on the tax roll by the posted ratio. This will indicate the true cash value of the property.

The County Pays Its Bills; Does Minor Business

CONDENSED REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNTY COURT

Re: Claims presented against all funds—all allowed.
Re: Treasurer's financial statement showing all fund balances as of March 31, 1957 presented—approved and ordered filed.
Re: Road Fund balances as of March 31, 1957, presented—approved and ordered filed.
Re: Gasoline consumption for month of March, 1957, presented—examined and ordered filed.
Re: Election date for budget to exceed 6% limitation set for Friday, May 24, 1957. Same date for election of \$5,000.00 appropriation for building of a new barn at fairgrounds.
Re: Paving Street in front of courthouse—for lack of sufficient information—no definite action taken.
Re: Crusher Site—Test pit made on Gordon Butte not satisfactory—new pit to be tested north of Gordon Ridge.
Re: Union Oil Contract for Gas under discussion—contract to be held for time being.

NO FURTHER MATTERS AT ISSUE. ADJOURNMENT ENSUED. CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST SHERMAN COUNTY, OREGON, GENERAL AND ROAD FUNDS FOR MARCH, 1957, APPROVED APRIL 3 TERM OF THE COUNTY COURT.

GENERAL FUND:
SHERIFF'S OFFICE:
N. Fields, \$70.00; George J. Geiser Jr., \$20.00—mileage.
CLERK'S OFFICE:
Dunham Printing, \$23.40
ASSESSOR'S OFFICE:
Waunda L. Shaver, \$191.64;

Second, he must divide the true cash value by 80% to obtain the market value. Then, with the market value calculated, he can readily make the comparison between his idea of the valuation of the property and the assessor's market value.

For example, if the assessed value of a home is shown on the tax statement of the assessment roll as \$2,000, and the posted ratio is 25%, then, divided \$2,000 by .25, a true cash value figure is found. This true cash value figure is then divided by 80% to determine the market value of the property which, in this case, would be \$10,000.

Any taxpayer planning to appeal to the board of equalization should first review his assessment with the county assessor. If the assessor makes no adjustment, the taxpayer has the privilege of placing his case prior to May 18, before the county board for further consideration. If the board of equalization does not give the request relief, the taxpayer can then continue his appeal at a later date to the State Tax Commission, thence into the courts. County boards are not required to consider appeals that are filed after the May 18 deadline, Stewart pointed out.

Other committee assignments are similar to those made for previous picnics indicating the excellent job done by those who have helped heretofore. Grounds: Walter Bruckert, Henry Grabenhorst. Coffee: Lester Barnum, Orville Ruggles, Donald von Borstel. Cold Drinks: Clara Kock, Myrtle Barnum, Mrs. F. D. Reid. Nominating: Donald Martin, Willy Knighten. Registration: Althea Burnet, Lena Brock, Helen Olds. Betterment: Mrs. Nellie Fields, Grace M. Zevely. Pictures: Mr and Mrs. Theodore Johnston.

Secretary Mrs. Allie Ruggles and Gles French will aid in publicizing the picnic and the marker committee will remain with Gles French, A. C. Kaseberg and Orville Ruggles as members.

The society rolls are open to anyone interested in Sherman county.

EVERYONE is needed.

Jack Cushman Elected 97 Club's New President

Jack Cushman is the new president of the Highway 97 club and Mrs. Cliff Chipman is secretary since election of officers at the meeting last Thursday evening at the court house. Mrs. Anita Hooper was president last year.

The meeting was called by Mrs. Hooper to start work on gathering funds for payment of the rent on the sign at the junction of the Sherman highway and Criterion road south of Shaniko and B. H. Roberson, Harold Owens and Ira Fridley were named to do that job.

It was announced at the meeting that the Maryhill ferry would start 24 hour service May 1 and that signs announcing this would be placed in time to let users know about it.

It was agreed to scotch light the big sign at the junction with the club doing the work itself and the club voted to appropriate some money of its own and collect additional funds to pay expenses of delegates who attend meetings on behalf of Highway 97 and satisfaction was expressed with the progress being made to date.

Committees Made For Annual Picnic Of Historical Group

President Wallace May and vice president Carroll Sayrs are making up a program for the Historical society meeting which will be held at DeMoss Springs park Sunday, June 9. What is to be said and sung and who is to do it is their responsibility.

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Wasco Pioneers To Hold 35th Meeting Saturday In The Dalles

Next Saturday, May 4, the Old Wasco County Pioneers meet in The Dalles and many Sherman countians are eligible to attend and to join. Those born 50 years ago in what was original Wasco county may belong.

The program this year is based on the fact that The Dalles was first incorporated 100 years ago, getting its charter from the territorial legislature and having it written by N. H. Gates who kept a hotel and store in the town which had, an estimated 300 persons or less as inhabitants.

Registration will start at 9:30 a. m. when members and visitors will gather at the armory and greet friends of another day. Prior to that time there will be a "Chuck Wagon" breakfast at Dalles City park to which all visitors are invited.

The traditional salmon dinner will be served at 11:30 and continue until all are fed. At 2:00 o'clock the program will begin with the business meeting of the association taking up a part of the time. There will be a talk about the history of the incorporation proceedings and some remarks by Thomas Vaughan, director of the Oregon Historical society and Tom Fraser will sing, "Sweet Oregon."

In the evening there will be another program and a grand march led by Mr. and Mrs. John Silver-tooth of Antelope after which the pioneers will dance to the music of Slusher's orchestra of Dufur.

Tax League Will Meet Again May 8

The Sherman Tax league will hold another meeting Wednesday evening May 8 at the court house. Time 8 p. m.

Action of the legislature on tax bills will be reviewed and discussed if there is still time to advise legislators about the wishes of the league.

A delegation from Wasco county has asked to attend to learn about the local league with the intention of starting one there. It is presumed that citizens from Wasco county may want to talk about property taxation and the ratio problems.

As usual anyone interested is welcome to come.

Lynn Hampton Has Long School Record

Lynn O. Hampton, who will become county school superintendent at the end of the school year, is a former school superintendent of Baker county who resigned to return to teaching. He is now superintendent of schools at Vale, a few years past 50 and has been in school work for some 25 years, according to information provided. He is well acquainted with Oregon school law and considered well qualified for the position he is about to assume.

Livestock Judging Day Scheduled

The spring livestock judging day for 4-H club members, parents and others interested will be held Saturday, May 11, at the Fred E. Cox and Son ranch, Grass Valley, reports T. W. Thompson, county agent. The event will start with a potluck lunch at 12:00 noon.

E. L. "Gus" Woods, Crook county agent, will attend and assist in the training field day. Practice of livestock judging will be the theme of the day. Sheep, hogs, and steers will be moved to the Cox ranch to use in the judging contest. A prize to the highest placing boy and girl will be given by the Cox family.

All club members are asked to make every effort to attend. The practice judging is valuable training and has improved judging skills of club members.

Sherman Riders See New Colts

The Sherman County Riders met at the home of Art Van Gilder, Monday evening, April 29. After a short business meeting, a surprise baby shower was held for Mrs. Bob Martin. Silly gifts were present to Bob, the father-to-be. Marjory Van Gilder's new Arabian colts by Serfer and out of Ouarda and Cotton were inspected by the group.

Refreshments were served by the hostess. On each plate was a safety pin bent in the shape of a star, carrying a tiny diaper, and standing upright in an orange segment of jellied candy.

Homemakers Meet To Display New Dresses

Sherman county's first homemakers festival drew around 165 adults for the Tuesday afternoon activities at Sherman high cafeteria. Vernon Miller, county judge, in his welcome to the group stated that the county was pleased that they had helped to make this program available to Sherman county homemakers.

Project leaders from the six community workshops staged skits in which the dresses made at the workshops were modeled by the ones who took part.

Mrs. Armas Jakku's talk and slides of her trip to western Europe were especially interesting. She also had a number of articles from foreign countries on display.

Mrs. Velma McKean led group singing and Geraldine Holapfel tap-danced.

Mrs. Ann Weigant, state extension recreation specialist of OSC, with the assistance of Ina B. Hanson, county extension agent, installed the unit officers for next year.

Out of town guests were: Mrs. Jane Schroeder, Wasco county extension agent, Selma Gray, Cecile Larson and Mrs. Richard Peck, The Dalles; Mrs. Mabelle Winegar of Salem; Helen Walter, Baker; Mrs. Longstaff of Hastings, Neb.

Mavis Miller, Sherrie and Ron Fraser, Mary Mobbey and Mary Anne McKay, 4-H girls, cared for fourteen preschool children in an improvised nursery while the mothers attended the program.

The Busy Bakers 4-H club of Kent had an interesting exhibit on safety in the home. This particular group had previously won a state award on their safety program.

Mrs. Dewey J. Thomas, chairman of the County Advisory committee was general chairman of the days activities. Mrs. Curt Neal, Rufus, was the chairman of the refreshment committee.

Each unit had an exhibit of one of the projects studied this year. Unit officers for the coming year are Grass Valley—Kathryn Blaylock, chairman, Lucile Duncan, vice-chairman, Blanche Riggs, sec-treas.; Kent—Margaret Mobbey, chairman, Sammie Watkins, vice-chairman, Dorothy Stark, sec-treas.; Moro Tuesday unit—Dorene Hall, chairman, Laura Sather, vice-chairman, Lila Bucholtz, sec-treas.; Moro Wednesday unit—Vada DeMoss, chairman, Gwen Mat-teson, vice-chairman, Wanda Dun-lap, sec-treas.; Nitehawk unit—Grace Busse, chairman, Imogene Halley, vice-chairman, Marie Taylor, sec-treas.; Rufus—Beth Reid, chairman, Adelaine McDonald, vice-chairman, Edna Macnab, sec-treas.; Wasco—Selma Watkins, chairman, Alice Fridley, vice-chr.; Grace Medier, sec-treas. These officers were installed at the home makers festival and will take over duties in September.

April was such a wet month but it was wetter than the average bringing .87 inch, which is .12 above the normal for that month. Of that amount .47 came on the 12th and many parts of the county got more.

For the crop year we now have, as of May 1, 8.25 inches and the normal is 9.70.

Temperature was Aprilish with a high of 80 the last two days, compared to a normal high of 75, the low was 30 on the 7th. The average maximum was 58.9, the average minimum 38.3 for a mean of 48.7 which is within .6 of the average.

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Mrs. Harry Pinkerton At Yakima Meeting

Mrs. Harry Pinkerton attended the spring convention of the Yakima Valley District of the Washington State Federation of Women's clubs, which was held Monday at the Lower Naches Grange hall. She was a guest of the district president, Mrs. Clair A. Pinkerton, of Yakima.

The featured speaker was Mrs. Dean L. Proffitt, of Tumwater, Wash., Youth Conservation chair-man, who spoke eloquently on "Our Living Future." The Yakima district is made up of 44 senior clubs and 18 junior clubs.