

Sherman County Journal

Sixty-Ninth Year No. 38

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County Official Paper

These Things We Note

By Gile L. French

Do you suppose Hells Canyon would have achieved so much notoriety had it been named Smith's gorge? Maybe part of its prominence came because the inhibited liked to say it.

It looks like it was about as hard to convict a labor man as to convict a white man in the south.

We would tremendously like to sympathize with that airman who will serve four months in jail for failing to get his hair cut. Knowledge that his hair will grow out before he is released and worry about the tread inside of the white sidewalls restrains us.

Overheard: "Joe is the sort of guy who can be happy thinking he is superior to somebody. Sam can't be happy unless he thinks he is superior to everybody."

The Saturday Evening Post is worrying about modern Republicanism and we hope it starts a lot of people to worrying about it, too. Not that such worry is valuable but it is more healthful than worrying about the state of one's heart or the neighbor's errands always prevail because children. As a general idea mod-people like to be up to date; that is they prevail until some one expounds an older idea and makes it seem modern. This nation, in theory, exemplifies the type of government based on the theory that people are pretty good and will do very well if let alone; the other theory of government is that people are a pretty deplorable bunch at best and entirely unreliable so it is up to government to guide them all the time. We would like to think that the prevailing party in the United States always would have faith in the people, but it has not always been so.

The man who makes snap judgments remember that to tell time you have to look at the watch long enough to see if it's running.

A few days ago some theorist said the federal government would never interfere with schools under the aid bill. School board members who have had to listen to state administrators may laugh first.

We are afraid that PUC Commissioner Morgan may find out that the federal ICC is bigger than the state in the matter of making rates. It is possible the railroad would like the idea so they could complete in Oregon.

So the beauty contest was merely that. And even beauty seems a rather poor qualification without some others.

The efforts of government employees to justify their jobs is always interesting, sometimes funny.

Education without a critical sense—without ability to determine good and bad, social and unsocial—isn't of much value in government.

Efforts to make retirement more attractive have stepped up the inflation of the currency that has made retirement almost impossible.

If you don't pay your income taxes you'll go to jail. If you do pay them you may have to go to jail to eat.

Washington may let drinkers drink longer. The problem, we have heard, is to get them to drink slower.

Grandpa wanted to live until he could ride in an auto and dad wondered if there would ever be television but something must have been lost in the family tree; we don't give a care about going to the moon.

We have begun to wonder what foods are causing the rapid rise in the food index. Maybe we need an investigation of the index itself.

County Agent Says Omar Is Best Wheat So Far Found

Omar, the red-chaffed club wheat, highly resistant to all known smuts in Oregon is the recommended club variety for the Columbia Basin states Sherman County Agent T. W. Thompson.

Reports that a new smut race has been found in Pullman area that attacks Omar does not alter its adaptability for Sherman county. Omar is presently resistant to 32 varieties of smut while Elmar only 16. During development and field testing Omar was also found to be somewhat higher yielding than Elmar. Nineteen trials in '53-'55 found Omar 10.15% higher yielding.

The isolation of a new smut race should provide a greater incentive to plant Omar, states Thompson. Continued use of Elmar will allow significant smut infestations to develop and the greater probability of producing additional new smut races. Thompson suggests, Sherman county farmers confine their seed purchases to local sources where no known new smuts are present.

Local yields of Omar have proven to be as good or better than Elmar. Some early reports of shattering have found that all varieties shattered considerably in the north end of the county. Shattering in nearly all cases varied according to management practices from field to field with equal resistance to shattering between the two club varieties. Ten years of development of Omar found it equal in resistance to shattering as Elgin and Elmar.

Farmers have readily taken advantage of the new club wheats developed in the past. Omar is an improvement over older club varieties and should be planted on all club producing acreage the fall of 1957, states Thompson.

TWO IN NAVY SERVICE

Kenneth D. Duncan, engineer third class, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy L. Duncan of Grass Valley is serving with the Pacific Reserve Fleet. The station is a "mothballing" center where auxiliary vessels of the U. S. Pacific Reserve Fleet are inactivated.

James R. Roberson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Benson H. Roberson of Moro is undergoing 16 weeks of officer indoctrination and pre-flight training at the U. S. Naval School, Pensacola, Florida.

County Court Transacts Usual Run of Business

CONDENSED REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF REGULAR TERM OF THE COUNTY COURT JULY 30, 1957

Re: Claims against all funds presented—all allowed.

Re: Treasurer's financial statement showing all fund balances as of June 30, 1957 presented—examined, approved and ordered filed.

Re: Road Fund Balances as of June 30, 1957 presented—examined, approved and ordered filed.

Re: Gasoline consumption for month of June, 1957 presented—examined and ordered filed.

Re: Scott Canyon—M. E. Leigh of Rufus appears before court and asks for permission to build approach to Scott Canyon road—granted.

Re: B. P. A. — Agreement presented to court for location of transmission line from Biggs-Eddy to DeMoss. Agreement not signed due to dissatisfaction of certain property owner as to location of line.

Re: Home Demonstration Agent — Notification made to court of resignation of Ina Hanson as home demonstration agent for Sherman County.

Re: Weed Program—W. Thompson, county agent, discusses weed program for coming year—weed man to be instructed to control certain noxious weeds in various districts.

Re: Purchase of floor waxer for courthouse authorized.

Re: Tax Foreclosed property—J. E. Norton, Kent, Oregon submits for Part of Block 2, Ragsdale & Morrison Addition to town of Kent, Oregon—Bid accepted and District Attorney instructed to prepare deed.

Grass Valley Grain Growers, Grass Valley, Oregon submit for the following tax foreclosed property: Lots 1, 2 & 3 of Block 3, Ragsdale & Morrison Addition to town of Kent. Bid accepted and District Attorney instructed to prepare deed.



TOKYO (Special) Being Far East representative for the Oregon Wheat Growers League has its brighter moments reports Jos. J. Spiruta from Yuigahama beach near Tokyo. Spiruta, stationed in the Orient by Oregon wheat farmers for purposes of supervising programs beamed at changing eating patterns, reports the above

Wheat Fire Gets Volunteers Out

A small field fire put life into Wednesday afternoon. It was on the north side of the Kenneth Fridley place northeast of Wasco. It was put out by the Wasco fire department about 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon and things settled down for a time. About 6:30 in the evening it came to life again and had to be subdued the second time. The Moro fire truck helped in this work.

It is reported that something like ten acres of wheat was burned and a much larger patch of stubble and grass, the latter unknown as the fire went down toward the John Day.

District Attorney On Interim Board

T. Lester Johnson, district attorney of Sherman county has been named a member of an interim committee to study the qualifications of county coroners. The need comes from a bill passed by the people in 1956 making it possible for coroner qualifications to be set by law. Now it seems necessary to determine what a coroner should know.

George Drinkards To Celebrate 50 years

Mr. and Mrs. George Drinkard Sr. will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary Sunday July 28. They will have open house at the Rufus grange hall from 2 to 5 p. m. to greet their friends. The Drinkards have spent nearly forty years of their wedded life living and farming in Sherman county in the Emigrant Springs district.

Mr. and Mrs. Drinkard were married in Portland July 28, 1907 coming to the city from their home in Linn county, near Halsey. They moved to Sherman county in October 1918 and have lived here ever since.

Sherman County Free of Bangs

No reactors to Bangs disease testing were found in Sherman county in the monthly testing done in June. Gilliam and Deschutes of eastern Oregon counties showed in increase in the number of reactors, more than ten being found in each.

Bids Opened On Big Eddy-DeMoss Power Line

Bonneville Power Administration today announced opening of bids for clearing and construction of the 26-mile Big Eddy-DeMoss 115,000 volt transmission line with an apparent low bid of \$217,863 submitted by Key Construction Company, Tacoma, Wash.

Energyization of the line and a 15,000 kilovolt-ampere substation with two feeder positions at DeMoss, Oregon in May 1958, will provide power for Sherman and Gilliam counties in North Central Oregon served by the Wasco Electric Cooperative, the Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative and Pacific Power & Light Company.

Specifications call for clearing a 100-foot secured right-of-way and construction of H-frame and single wood pole structures, together with some steel river crossing towers and stringing of conductor and overhead ground wires.

The successful contractor will have 260 days to complete the project.

Other bids include Tye Construction Company and Lee Hoffman, Seattle, Washington \$224,137 (combined bid); R. C. Hughes Company, Spokane, Washington \$231,089; Montgomery Electric Company, Portland, Oregon \$237,608; Sierra Electric Company, Portland Oregon \$248,735; and W. L. Ridge Construction Company, Spokane, Washington \$255,835.

George Reeds Take Over Restaurant

Mr. and Mrs. George Reed are now proprietors of Beefe's, having taken possession from Mr. and Mrs. Joe Steelman this week. They come from Cascade Locks where they have owned the hotel and tavern for the past three years. They are living at Roby's Motel for the present. Steelman, somewhat concerned about his increasing weight, says he'll go back to construction work for a while.

WEATHER FINE

Weather for harvesting has been good for the past week and machines can get out as early in the morning as the ambition of the boss dictates. There has been a wind nearly every day to keep the temperature from getting too high and it has also made ripening of the grain on higher ground in the south end a slow and satisfactory process. There can be little complaint about the weather so far.

Employment Lower Except In Government

Lower than usual seasonal gains in employment last month left the number of Oregon's non-agricultural jobs at mid-year at 505,000, nearly eight thousand lower than in 1956. Lumbering, construction, metals, paper and other industries showed little pickup from May, while trade and service reported gains over the previous month and year.

Estimates based on reports from 2,000 representative employers as tabulated by the State Unemployment Compensation Commission in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics confirmed recent local office accounts of an increasing number of jobseekers.

A between-season harvest lull was partly responsible for 11,665 claimants last week, highest since late May. About 25,000 persons were looking for jobs July 1. The employment service estimated 45,000 were in seasonal farm work this week, while many more are expected to be called soon to bean fields and other late harvests.

Lumber and wood products reported 80,800 workers in June, only 2,600 more than in May and 8,200 fewer than a year ago. Construction with 25,400 jobs changed but little from the previous month and was 1,000 lower than in June, 1956. Food processing also was 2,700 off from the 24,900 reported last year, partly because of price drops on berries. Ship repairing let out 1,200 to decline to 3,400.

Best gains from a year ago were registered in retail trade, service and local government. The last-named reported 63,500 jobs, comparing with 60,600 in 1956, while trade expanded by 900 to 84,600 and service lines accounted for 62,300, about 2,600 more than last year.

Plea Made For Wheat Exhibits At Fair By Bill Hall

Bill Hall, Field Crop Supt.

Attention Sherman County Wheat Growers: Everyone knows that Sherman county produces the best wheat in the Pacific Northwest. Since it is all the best, the fair board fails to see how it can award prizes to any one farmer for the best wheat. Therefore, they have changed the rules so that the judging will not only be on quality of wheat, but also on ability of machine men. Threshed grain exhibits at the county fair this year are to be "field run". Save 20 pounds for an exhibit at the fair this fall. No extra cleaning and picking required this year. It may bring you a championship prize of \$15 dollars.

Before the combines cut all the fields, take time to cut a bundle for a sheaf exhibit at the fair also. Show us the size of those club wheat heads, the length of the barley heads. It won't take long to make an attractive sheaf for the fair.

Old House Burned At Grass Valley

Fire completely destroyed the old C. A. Heath house in the south part of town Saturday about 5 p. m. It was recently vacated by Mrs. Fern Kelley. The fire was started from sparks from a trash barrel setting the dry weeds and grass on fire and the northwest wind took it along the alley to the house. Due to the quick work of the local fire department the Archie Cantrill and the Brown house, occupied by the George Benson family were saved. The Moro fire truck came up and helped with their booster pump. Several windows were broken in the Cantrill house and the side of the house was scorched. A number of poplar trees were burned.

Tom Vaughan Put On Commission

Director of the Oregon Historical Society, Thomas Vaughan of Portland, was appointed Monday by Governor Robert D. Holmes, to the Oregon Centennial Commission.

Vaughan, who is also editor of the Oregon Historical Quarterly and other society publications, succeeds Coleman H. Wheeler, also of Portland, who resigned from the nine-member commission. Vaughan's term expires Dec. 31, 1959.

The commission, created by the 1955 legislature, has been organized to plan and stage celebrations in 1959 marking the 100th anniversary of Oregon's admission to the union. Funds were appropriated by the 1957 legislature to finance the centennial fair.

Vaughan, 32, is a native of Seattle and a graduate of Yale University. He received his masters degree from the University of Wisconsin and completed advanced work in western history as a Rockefeller scholar. Before coming to the Oregon Historical Society three years ago, Vaughan was associated with the Wisconsin State Historical Society and other museum installations in Wisconsin.

New Ag Board Calls Meeting

Robert J. Steward, director of agriculture, has called the organization meeting of the new state board of agriculture for July 31 in the state department of agriculture headquarters, Salem. The members were appointed July 15 by Governor Holmes and will function in advisory capacity.

Also new to board meetings will be Dean F. E. Price, who as director of the Oregon State college agricultural extension service becomes an ex-officio member under 1957 legislation.

Members of the board, their field of representation and term expiration are: Mrs. Kenneth Livingston, Portland, the public, July 1, 1960; Loyd Key, Milton-Freewater, wheat, July 1, 1961; Ward Spatz, Medford, horticulture, July 1, 1960; Ralph G. Wicher, Junction City, dairying, July 1, 1959; Cornelius Bateson Sr., Salem, diversified farming, July 1, 1958; Robert Pierce, Ontario, row crops, July 1, 1959; R. A. Long, Lakeview, cattlemen, July 1, 1961.

Crop Good, May Be Best Ever In Per Acre Yield

The grain crop is good. It is very good, so good that it may be the best ever in yield per acre.

The barley crop has been cut in the north end and it has turned out very well, in an area that has been considered poorly adapted to barley. Estimates that this county would produce 50,000 tons of barley on 40,000 acres are probably too high but unless the south end of the county, where barley often does well, falls down there will be over 40,000 tons.

The wheat is fine. Poorest crop so far reported to this office is a yield of 33 bushels and that on very ordinary land. Most of it is beating 40 bushels and some are talking about 50 and even 60 bushels on good slopes.

Elevators are filling up fast but the rate will slow down as the barley is cut and trucks bring in wheat. Barley is much more bulky than wheat. It is entirely possible that the elevators will be chock full again by the end of harvest and they were entirely empty in June. If so there will be a tremendous yield for storage was considered ample for more than one crop.

The crop is being harvested easily and quietly. Few men are employed as machinery is doing the work.

Mrs. Lenora Cauthers Passes 90th Year

Mrs. Lenora Cauthers was the honor guest Sunday at a party celebrating her 90th birthday and her daughters and daughters in law were the hostesses. Friends of long ago came for the occasion which was held in the Moro Community church.

Norma Barzee and Helen Sayrs played duets "Tea for Two" and "Gypsy Love Song"; Velma McKean and Genevieve Powell sang "Last Night" and "Indian Love Call"; and a great grand daughter sang about the "Little Old Lady". That was Connie Fastabend who was accompanied by her mother, Helen Ruggles. Old timers recalled the days "when" to give the proper touch of nostalgia to the afternoon.

Mrs. Zella Dyer and Mrs. Howard Belshee of The Dalles presided at the tea table while refreshments of birthday cake was served. Mrs. Casha Yates of The Dalles and Mrs. Lillian Platt served the punch.

Later in the afternoon Mrs. Cauthers assisted by Mrs. Yates and Mrs. Anna Moore opened the cards and gifts brought in remembrance of the occasion.

Among the out of town guests present were Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ruggles, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Ruggles and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Platt of Heppner, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Fastabend and two daughters of Richland, Wash., Mr. and Mrs. Earl McKinney of Ione, Mrs. W. A. Woods, and Mrs. William Hulise and son of Dufur, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Belshee, Mrs. Edith Burnet, Casha Murry Yates, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Powell, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Kunsman, Mary Hulise, and Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Platt, all from The Dalles.

Ruggles and daughter Mrs. Fastabend and two daughters, Mrs. Earl McKinney, all from Heppner, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Belshee, Mrs. Roy Hulise, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Powell, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Kunsman, Mrs. Edith Burnet, Mrs. Casha Yates, all from The Dalles.

More Cattle On Feed In USA

Cattle on feed in selected states show an increase of 108 per cent over the number in like position last year according to a bulletin from the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

On July 1, 1956 there were 3,397,000 on feed and this year there is 3,681,000 on feed. In California the increase is 119 per cent which is topped only by Minnesota with 128 per cent. Only Texas and Nebraska have smaller numbers in the feed lots this year. Weight of the cattle is the same as last year although there is a slightly larger percentage of steers in the feed lots. This greater number of cattle ready for slaughter in the next few months may have an influence on the price which has been higher.