

Sherman County Journal

Seventieth Year No. 5

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County Official Paper

These Things We Note

Giles L. French

What will we have to do to break up the alliance between the motor car designers and the carpenters unions? Garages too small, again.

TTWN

Any bald headed man who has had to stand bare headed in the cold will sympathize with like. And while the old head feels like it was gripped in a vice it isn't fatal.

TTWN

Odd isn't it that firms footing the bill for expense accounts wouldn't stop them if they wanted to. Maybe the economic conditions will do more than government.

TTWN

A college we know used to give a course in "magic" which started with man's faith in inanimate things and ended with science. Now days it would end with missiles and government aids.

TTWN

A cheaper way to settle the south's integration problems would be to send a few hundred of the more valuable northern "liberals" down there to live.

TTWN

Anent Labor's George Meany's desire to clean up his own house, we suspect other groups in the light of the law would appreciate the same privilege.

TTWN

The Oregonian's concern over the cost of Wasco county's Wolf Run school is typical of what happens when larger units of government become interested financially in the affairs of smaller units. You cannot be independent and get money from others as loan, as gift or as subsidy.

TTWN

The little debate over "Blue John" needs the comment that skim milk came to be popular because dairymen wanted to extract as much butterfat as possible for butter manufacture so told users that butterfat made them fat and that the milk solids were most valuable. The trend started from economics more than from medicine or fashion.

TTWN

Frustration causes more car wrecks than speed.

TTWN

We are greatly impressed by the strong advocacy of traffic safety on the part of politicians. It's tough to have voters wiped out.

TTWN

The Pacific Coast league is going quite a ways from the coast for next year with Phoenix and Salt Lake admitted. Less fog, less air, less money.

TTWN

Taxing ourselves into economic destruction will be as pleasing to Russia as if they do it themselves with weapons. Even better for the country will be in better shape and their ideology will be upheld. Better for us, too. We will be alive. This is not, however, an endorsement of high taxes.

TTWN

Inflation is a time of forgetting the value of the essentials and paying too much for the non-essentials.

TTWN

Russian children, we read, often study English while American students seldom study Russian. That may not be as bad as it sounds.

TTWN

The times are always bad. We are afraid because conditions are bad or afraid they will get worse. When they get so bad they cannot get worse or we get too busy to worry there will be a short period of rest.

TTWN

Those Portland penguins are still doubtful about trading their freedom for a job in a zoo where government employees furnish the food and even force it on them. Maybe Mr. Marks should have caught only new deal penguins who would have fit in better.

TTWN

We are not much concerned as to whether Ike goes to Europe or not. It seems like the borrower should do the calling.

TTWN

This year it was popular to favor tax reduction; next year it will be popular to favor bigger defense expenditures. Wish we knew which is right.

Officers Chosen For Community ASC Positions

According to the local ASC office the following farmers were elected committeemen from their communities for 1958 as a result of the count of ballots cast in the recent election held by mail.

KENT—Joe Bibby, Jesse Helyer, John Decker, Dick Wilson and George von Borstel.

GRASS VALLEY—Bill Holmes, Ivan Blagg, Malcolm Eslinger, Mark Bird and Art Schilling.

MORO—Irving Hart, Donald Thompson, Paul Fraser, Lloyd Henrichs and John Shipley.

WASCO—Delmer Smith, John Hilderbrand, Leland Medler, Clyde Eridley and Leroy Beishee.

LOCUST GROVE—Gordon Harper, Tom Macnab, Paul Alley, L. E. Winnett and Art VanGilder.

Chairmen of the above committees will meet at the ASC office in Moro on December 16 to choose a county committee. During 1958 this county committee with the help of the community committeemen will administer the Federal CCC loan, wheat acreage allotment, agricultural conservation, and soil bank programs for the county.

Sherman County's Tax Goes Up Most

Sherman county had the highest percentage tax increase in Oregon according to a compilation made by the Oregon Tax Research for release this week. The percentage was 28.5 over 1956-57. Second was Benton county with 16.2 per cent.

Despite the tendency toward higher taxes twelve counties did reduce their taxes: Coos, Curry, Gilliam, Grant, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, (where voting on separate appropriations was done), Lincoln, Tillamook, Wasco, Wheeler and Yamhill. And some reduced the appropriations for schools either with, or without general fund reductions. Klamath county increased its school money by \$143,000 and cut its total budget by \$159,000.

November Average Heat, Low on Rain

November was normal except that it was pretty dry. Instead of getting 1.70 inches of rainfall only .86 fell in the month just passed. November is a variable month so far as rain is concerned there being but .11 last year and as low as .03 in 1939. For the crop year the total is now 2.99 inches which is .38 below normal. Great amount of rain came on the 13th when .04 inch fell.

For temperature the month just about held to the averages. The highest temperature was 61 on the 23rd shortly after the low of 21 on the 21st. Average high is 61 and average low 18. Just another month.

Wind velocity averaged 3.2 a quiet month and the average temperature was 39.2 just .06 below normal.

Septic Tank Cleaners Not Always OK

A fraudulent operator of a septic tank pumping service was exposed while attempting to cash a local businessman's check last week. The same operator had taken previously \$320.00 from a home owner in a neighboring county for pumping out a 500 gallon septic tank. The standard fee for such a job, according to Irv. Reiersen, county sanitarian, should not run over \$50.00.

Steve O'Meara of the Shamrock club gave the operator a check for \$120.00 for services, stating that the check would not be good for two days. When the bank called the same day because the man was trying to cash the check, Mr. O'Meara became suspicious. Mr. O'Meara came in to town to see the operator, but the man had gone, without cashing the check. Further check-up through the local and state health departments revealed that the "operator" was an un-licensed, un-bonded, fly-by-night.

The county health officer has signed a complaint for prosecution of the operator if he can be apprehended.

The county sanitarian points out that such servicing men must be licensed and bonded and that no person should accept such a service without first examining his license.



Pair of Pioneers Celebrate 60th Wedding Anniversary With All of Children Present

Mr. and Mrs. Elvin E. Barnum celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Thanksgiving day with all of their five children around them and the appropriate viands of the day before them.

They were married November 28, 1957 at the Bruno Medler (brides parents) home north of Wasco by Justice of Peace Joe Marsh on a cold, blustery day that ended in a snowstorm before the newlyweds caught the train at Grants to start their honeymoon at Portland and Salem.

Mr. and Mrs. Barnum have been residents of Sherman county nearly all their married life although they once retired to The Dalles for a few years. On assuming the duties of a husband Elvin Barnum bought the Anderson place east of Moro (now occupied by Louis Sather) and later bought the Gould ranch, which he still owns.

Bids On Condon-Wasco Road Opened

Bids on the Condon-Wasco road will be opened this week by the state highway commission at Portland. In Gilliam county the contract will call for grading and oiling of 20.06 miles from the John Day river to the end of the paving west of Condon, widening the grade and making alignment changes in Cottonwood creek. A 20 foot oiled surface will be provided at a thickness of one and a half inches.

In Sherman county a contract will be let on the section between Hay canyon and the John Day river at Cottonwood bridge. It calls for the grading and oiling of 5.22 miles of roadbed on new alignment and oiling an additional 3.02 miles of roadbed along existing alignment in Cottonwood canyon.

County Agent Thompson Advises on Many Things Agricultural

Twenty-six Sherman county livestock producers had registered for voting by Monday noon. Only those producers who register will have an opportunity to vote. Registration may be done through the county agent's office.

The former reappraisal committees working last winter set up for assessment purposes reduced land values where heavy infestation of noxious weeds exist. A sub-committee of the Weed Control Sherman Planning conference have checked the assessors records to summarize acres infested and, tax base lost. The reappraisal committees allowed the following reduction in valuation due to a given percentage of infestation: 20% infestation - 5% reduction in valuation; 30% - 10%; 40% - 15%; and 50 per cent and up infestation - 20% reduction in valuation.

The summary shows \$71,704 loss in total value and \$17,230 loss in assessed value. This amounts to an estimated \$1,085 tax loss based on the 1957 tax year. Sixty-eight tax lots had this heavy weed infestation.

Don't burn straw - it is too valuable. Temptation for burning is going to be great next spring due to heavy straw from the 1957 crop. Many farmers are prepared to handle the heavy straw problem under a moldboard system. All farmers need to consider their straw problem this winter and be prepared to utilize a product that is so needed in our soil.

Aside from beneficial action of straw in helping stop erosion, we

Railroads Ask Freight Rate Cut On NW Grain

The railroads are making an effort to reduce the freight charges on grain from the Columbia basin to Portland and a hearing will be held in Seattle December 10 to start that move. The rate has been filed. After the hearing it is expected that other forms of transportation will protest it which will cause delay and additional hearings.

But farmers can be happy over the start which has been under discussion between the rail lines and shippers for many months.

The rate from Moro would be reduced from 20.5 cents per hundred to 17 cents and similar adjustments will be made in other rates. Baker will be cut from 53.5 to 43, LaGrande from 45.5 to 37, Pendleton from 33.5 to 26 and Madras from 22.5 to 16.5. Other points will receive comparable adjustments.

C. W. Evers of the Union Pacific, one of the traffic managers making the announcement, said that the matter has not been taken up with the Oregon PUC commissioner and a hearing may be held in Oregon later.

Oregon Traffic Bad Enough To Kill

Oregon traffic claimed a tie for the second highest number of fatalities in one month when at least 55 persons died as a result of accidents during November the department of Motor Vehicles traffic safety division said today.

The toll sent the 11 months' count to 422. With the month of December still to go, the death figure is only shy of last year's final count of 423. The mark probably will be surpassed during the first week of December at the current rate of fatalities.

The figures are subject to revision upward if any persons later die as a result of injuries incurred in accidents during the month. This would send the death toll past the previously recorded high for one month, 59, in August of 1950. There were 58 deaths in November of 1936.

The November toll is the 13th time since 1936 that 50 or more persons have been killed by traffic in one month. Forty-three were killed in November last year.

In a move to clamp down on unsafe driving during December, which has proven to be one of the most disastrous months in Oregon, state police officers are issuing citations to drivers to appear in court for violations of the basic rule.

The traffic safety division reminds drivers to be doubly careful during December because of the holiday hazards such as the rush of shopping, pressure of social activities, drinking drivers, and adverse weather conditions.

Wheat League To Hear Talks, Make Committee Reports

Rahpael R. Raymond, president of the Oregon Wheat Growers League, will address the 30th annual meeting of the league at 1.15 p. m., Friday, December 6.

The meeting will be held December 5, 6, and 7 in the Memorial Armory, Pendleton. The opening session will feature qualified speakers to discuss a topic of current interest, "Earth Satellites".

Dick Turner of Dawson and Turner, Portland, will moderate the panel discussion Friday, "Marketing Farm Commodities" with Bill Hoard representing the Washington Fruit Commission; Gordon Laughlin; Consolidated Dairies; Ben Davidson, Oregon Potato Commission and Paulen Kaseberg Oregon Wheat Commission.

Convention entertainment will be furnished by the Pendleton high school show band under the direction of J. G. Kepley, with the Pendleton's Men's Chorus being featured at the annual banquet.

Bridge Financing Awaits Cheap Money

A story in The Dalles Chronicle states that delay has been found advisable, in planning for the Biggs Rapid bridge across the Columbia, the story coming from Olympia, Washington with William Bugge, engineer of Washington roads making the announcement.

B. H. Roberson, who has been active in advocating the bridge, says that the story is not alarming because it was never contemplated that the bridge would be built with high priced money. It is expected by many observers that the price of both money and steel will decline in the next few months to a sufficient extent that the financing of the bridge will be more economical and therefore feasible.

Tax Group To Meet December 11

The next meeting of the Sherman county tax group will be held Wednesday night at the court house at eight o'clock.

Subject of the meeting will be property taxes which will be reviewed as to history, methods of assessment, incidence and uses. This will be the second meeting on property taxes.

Everyone is welcome to the meetings which are conducted informally and with discussion possible at any point.

MEETING POSTPONED

The regular meeting of the Moro Women's club was postponed a week due to several members planning to attend the meeting of the Oregon Wheat Growers league convention in Pendleton.

Tax Turn-over Tot Is \$604,920, Biggest In History

The tax turn-over for the 1957 taxes was made this week when Treasurer Naomi Van Gilder received \$604,920.54 from the sheriff. This is 92.3 percent of the total roll, somewhat smaller than has been the case in recent years. The total taxes were the largest in the county's history.

The general fund will receive \$74,302.29 out of \$87,258.10 asked. The road fund gets \$109,973.35 out of \$118,988.31 asked; the rural schools get \$229,232.56 out of \$247,892.33 asked; the county high school gets \$157,711.94 out of \$170,549.92 asked; the Wasco school district gets \$10,268.41 out of a request for \$11,217.08. Total roll was \$655,909.61.

Cities Get Funds

The city of Wasco gets \$5,249.81 out of a levy of \$6,435.74; the city of Moro gets \$7,967.44 out of \$9,028.79 asked and the city of Grass Valley gets \$3,755.23 out of \$4,024.67.

Total collected for schools, excluding Wasco's bond and interest fund which is for its gymnasium, is \$393,414.00. This does not include any amount that will come from the basic school fund which is a little difficult to compute because of changes in the law. The per capita school tax must be included. Collected for that fund is \$6,469.50.

History Will Have Place In Centennial

An Oregon historical caravan to tour the state during 1958 publicizing Oregon's 1959 centennial celebrations will be among projects investigated by a 15-member history committee just formed to work with the centennial staff, announces centennial commission member Thomas Vaughan.

Vaughan, who is director of the Oregon Historical society, said the volunteer committee will also assist the centennial commission and staff in programming special lecture series and meetings throughout the state in observance of Oregon's 100th anniversary of admission into the union.

Local Societies Included

The group will work closely with the Oregon Historical society and with the 28 county historical societies in the state which are formally associated with the society.

Vaughan is liaison commissioner coordinating work of the committee, according to Anthony Brandenthaler, chairman of the centennial commission.

Members of the committee are: Stewart Holbrook, Mrs. David L. Davies, Arthur Throckmorton, Dorothy Johansen, Leslie Scott, Portland; Burnby Bell, Astoria; Mrs. Albert Powers, Coos Bay; James Howes, Newport; Alva Goodrich, Bend; Vera Caulfield, Oregon City; Earl Pomeroy, Martin Schmitt, Eugene; Professor Lee Johnson, LaGrande; Judith Kenny, Hermiston; Giles French, Moro; Luis L. Knapp, Langlois; Verne Bright, Tolovana Park.

Harlandview Grange Has Regular Meeting

Harlandview Grange met in regular session Monday, December 2, with 19 members present. It was voted to have potluck dinners at 6:30 p. m. preceding each meeting until further notice. After grange meeting all present and several other neighbors gathered at the Blaine Miller home to surprise the Millers on their 20th wedding anniversary. The evening was spent playing pinochle and visiting. High score for ladies went to Mrs. Kenneth Sather, low to Mrs. Zella Dyer; for men Dean Martin was high, Paul Cyphers low. Refreshments of cake and ice cream were served.

Harlandview Grange will hold its next regular meeting - December 16 preceded by potluck dinner at 6:30 p. m. and the annual Christmas party will follow the meeting. Harlandview Grange will hold its annual bazaar the afternoon of December 9 at 2:00 p. m. at Empire Machinery Co. in Moro. All members and friends are requested to have their donations of bake goods, produce and needlework into headquarters before 1:30.

Harlandview Grange is pleased to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Tom Woodcock who joined us by demit coming from Lone Pine Grange in Wasco county. Their loss is our gain.