

Sherman County Journal

Seventy-First Year No. 27

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County Official Paper

These Things We Note

Giles L. French

We have been accused of optimism because we have long felt that huge government spending would eventually cease. Of course, that would not happen until governments were broke but at the rate of spending that has to occur pretty soon. It is and Ben Franklin was right, "An empty sack cannot stand upright."

TTWN
It also looks as if wages were about as high as they can get. Foreign goods are the best buys.

TTWN
In other words, even a drunken sailor eventually sobers up.

TTWN
The supreme court says a health officer can come into a home without permission or a search warrant—another hole in the bill of rights.

TTWN
Taxpayers will be glad that the Saturday Evening Post's appellation of "Golden Boy" for Mark Hatfield is incorrect. He isn't so expensive as the legislature.

TTWN
One of the peculiarities about humans is their desire to have everyone else as much like them as possible. If he is a Christian he tries to convert everyone else; if he is a scientist he thinks all students should take science; if he likes to read he thinks non-readers are uncultured; if he likes whiskey he looks down on teetotalers as pansies, if on the other side he considers drinkers mere bums; if he has to work for a living he hates those with easy jobs as leeches. We spend a lot of effort because of our desires for conformity and really it wouldn't be fun if we had it.

TTWN
Maybe it is wrong to permit legislators to decide when it is time to go home. Had the decision to end this one been made by the people the boys would have been home long ago—and better so. But after all the voters have the opportunity to keep them there.

TTWN
There are those who worry because appropriations for the John Day dam are not larger. Sherman counts will not share that worry. Our problems will be less if the job is done slowly.

TTWN
Tickets for the Centennial are on sale at the bank and the Journal office. Early sales entitle the local committee to a discount.

TTWN
The expose of welfare activities would have been more appropriate before the legislature met. The job is probably being done according to law; what is needed is a change in the law.

TTWN
We doubt if the two term limit for presidents is wise. We doubt that many presidents would be selfish enough to need the limit. But so long as some may be, we need the law.

TTWN
A headline tells us that the sun's rays are getting warmer. That's what we like about newspapers, they keep you on things. Maybe the sun will get warmer here someday, too.

TTWN
It looks as if the Martin family is finding itself.

TTWN
Taking the middle-weight title away from Sugar Ray Robinson by some body or other is the height of idiocy. The only way Robinson can lose the crown is by getting defeated or to die. No pencil pusher is going to do it.

TTWN
Whether you know a single soul or not the Old Wasco County Pioneer meeting is fun. Watching 800 people enjoy meeting old friends is enough to make anyone happy.

TTWN
The news that Portland officials were raising their pay caused us to wonder about the basis for a salary scale for public officials. It cannot often be efficiency; it could be popularity but we presume it is mostly desire and authority to achieve it. Not very good, Eh?

April Was Cold, But Not Verv, April Was Drv, Verv, Verv

April was a cold month but not much colder than the average April which has a mean temperature of 48.1 degrees. This April had a mean of 47.7, only .4 degree below the normal. The highest temperature was 72 on the 21st and the lowest a 24. Normal high is 76 and normal low is 26 so it wasn't so bad even if it did feel bad.

But it was a dry month there being but .19 inch of rain all month and there were only two days with .05 inch of rain, the 14th and 17th. The average crop year rainfall is 9.55 and we are now .14 inch below that because February and April were dry months. January and March did better by us.

Fishing Season Slow For Most Fishermen

The fishing season is popularly presumed to be caused for an increase in mendacity but so far that has not been the case in this county. Those fishermen who have gone to the river are rather inclined to boast about the lack of fish rather than excuse their individual abilities to catch them. The river is low, salmon flies are coming out but the trout prefer the chilliness of the water to the greater chilliness of the air and few are to be inveigled with either a bright fly or a succulent worm.

Those who have gone to the little creeks have done well and so state without equivocation. Such fish are small but solid and catching them fills all the requirements of a fisherman's holiday. Getting to the little creeks is a truly pedestrian experience and any little creek holds but a small supply of fish so only the good and early walkers have caught fish.

Polio Shots Available Soon For All

Local Sherman county residents working on the free Polio clinics made possible by the donation of Salk Polio vaccine by the Sherman county chapter of the National Foundation were rewarded by good attendance at the five Polio clinics in Sherman county the middle of April. Interest and awareness of the opportunity for protection from Polio was evidenced by the participation at the clinics of 47 persons from Grass Valley, 32 from Kent, 44 from Wasco, 98 from Moro, and 68 from Rufus. The second round Polio clinics will be offered at Moro, Monday May 18 10:30 to 11:30 a. m.; Wasco, Monday, May 18 from 1 p. m. to 2 p. m.; Rufus, Monday, May 18 from 2:30 to 3:30 p. m.; Kent Tuesday, May 19, from 10:30 to 11:30 a. m. Grass Valley, Tuesday, May 19 from 1 p. m. to 2 p. m.

Those persons who have not been immunized against Polio and who missed the clinics in April are urged to attend in May and take advantage of this protection. A clinic is planned for December or January to complete the third injections.

School Elections Decided Without Single Contest

School elections were very quiet affairs Monday with almost no competition for offices and little complaint about the budgets offered. As a result every candidate who ran was elected and every incumbent was put back into office.

At Moro Millard Melzer was elected to serve the five year term replacing Bill Huck who chose not to run. At Wasco Jerry Barnett was re-elected for the five year term and Vern Dutton for the four year term, following his appointment to fill out the term of Virgil Brock.

At Moro Millard Melzer succeeds Ted Thompson who would not run again. At Grass Valley Gene Reynolds was elected. Kent Bill Jefferies was elected for the regular five year term and Ted Carlson for a two year term.

Leland Medler was re-elected to the Sherman High school board, a five year hitch. David Richelderfer was re-elected as member at large of the Rural School board and Luther Davis, Zone 5 and Donald von Borstel, Zone 4, were re-elected for another term.

In all districts voting for a levy over the six percent limitation, the levy carried. These are Rufus, Grass Valley and Kent. All budgets will therefore be in effect.

Legion Post Sets Price Too High

Chris Schultz post met Wednesday night to make final decision about giving an option on its lot and building on First Street to the postoffice department for a possible building site. A meeting last week had agreed on a price of \$1000 but the option was not signed. Wednesday night the members jacked the price up to \$2000 and G. W. Elden of the real estate department refused to consider it.

Other options have been signed and it is probable that another location will be chosen.

Hunting Regulations To Be Made May 22

Oregon hunters are advised that the 1959 seasons for hunting elk, deer, and antelope will be established by the game commission following a public hearing to be held May 22 at the commission's Portland office, 1634 S. W. Alder.

A new law passed by the Oregon legislature now gives the game commission authority to set the big game seasons prior to July. The scheduled May meeting date was selected by the commission for the big game hearing since all biological information on the status of Oregon's big game herds will be complete and assembled by that time.

By setting the big game hunting rules in May, the commission will have ample time to publish the hunting regulations, release other pertinent information, and to hold the various big game drawings well in advance of the seasons. Big game hunters will also have two additional months to schedule vacations and to make plans for their big game excursions.

Assessments Increase On Some Land Next Tax Bill

On May 4, approximately 200 notices of increase in assessments were sent out by the assessor's office, reports Clair L. Balzer, County Assessor.

These notices were the result of studies by the Assessor's office and the County Board of Equalization and concerned all of the land in Zone III.

All of Zone III was combined with Zone II and the same values for each class of land was used as a move to equalize values between these two zones and the rest of the county.

Classification of land in Zone III was not changed, but the values of Zone II were applied to existing classifications.

As a further move toward equalization, the local board has indicated that at their regular meeting on May 11, the value of all improvements will be reduced by 20 per cent. Notices will not be sent to taxpayers to inform them of this reduction, as it will be on a county wide basis.

Representatives Tell Reason For Votes

Representative George Annala of Hood River has sent the Sherman County Journal a letter of explanation about his vote for HB670, the tax bill on which comment was made last week. Annala voted for it to get it out of the house and over to the senate where he felt it would be amended. It was. He put an explanation of his vote in the record saying in part: "If this tax bill was the final tax program of both houses of this assembly, I would be unalterably opposed to its passage. . . My affirmative vote is cast only for the purpose of giving the senate the opportunity to work on it, since it appears that there is no hope here."

Representative Don McKinnis sent a clipping from his local paper quoting him as saying that he would "vote today with my party in spite of strong personal opposition to the measures."

Wheat Was Useful In Pioneer Days

Wheat was "gold" to Oregon pioneers and 1959 still finds it the state's No. 1 income crop, yielding some \$50 million annually.

Estimates point to 890,000 wheat acres in Oregon this year and a harvest of 25 million bushels, reports M. D. Thomas, Oregon State college agricultural economist.

Acres increased over last year's 861,000 is due mainly to close-out of the Soil Bank's acreage reserve. Crop experts believe, however, that some of the increase may be offset by slightly lower yields than last year when growing conditions were better than normal.

Whatever the 1959 yield, it would have been a bonanza to Oregon pioneers who hoarded meager supplies of wheat across the plains. Their diaries carefully noted the prices charged for flour at remote trading posts along the Oregon Trail, according to E. R. Jackman, OSC farm crops specialist who has authored numerous articles on pioneer agriculture.

Flour sold for \$20 a hundred pounds at Fort Hall near what is now Pocatello, Idaho. Near La Grande it was \$40 a hundred.

Wheat became legal tender through informal law of Willamette Valley settlers in 1945. During the 'fifties and 'sixties, Oregon millers were exporting wheat to California gold mining towns where the going price was \$25 a barrel.

Difficulties of transporting wheat down the Columbia River gorge delayed building of the rich Columbia Basin wheat potential until the railroad reached Portland in 1883. Ten years later Umatilla county harvested 4,500, 000 bushels and the big wheat shift from western to eastern Oregon was under way.

Today, western Oregon has about one-eighth of the state's wheat acreage, whereas 60 years ago half the acres were west of the Cascades.

The future of this long-time "golden grain" among Oregon crops? Government programs loom large. So long as regulations permit, economists see wheat continuing as Oregon's top dollar crop for food, feed, and export outlets.

Highway Hearing Finds Agreement On Relocation

The hearing held at the court house Tuesday afternoon by the state highway commission lasted but half an hour and interest was more in the plans than in opposing them.

A map was posted, and explained, showing the plan for the new highway between The Dalles and Rufus when the Columbia river highway is made four lane. The west bound traffic will stay next the river from Rufus to a point near Celilo, will swing across the railroad tracks there for about a half mile and again cross to the river bank until just above The Dalles dam. An interchange is planned at Biggs for the bridge to be built there. Judge Miller reported that he had word that Washington expects to call for bids on the structure by July 1.

The Sherman County Club, with Allen Tom as spokesman, reported that the conference on recreation last week had heard Mr. Koons of the state park division say that a park at the mouth of the Deschutes was desired but could not be built because of land acquisition. An underpass near Biggs so that boat owners could reach a launching place is planned, and the club proposed that such a pass be made to facilitate full recreational development. There should be ample clearance, easy access and marine parks should provide bouy anchorages. Frank Reid, chairman of the recreation committee, endorsed the plan.

Carl Floten, representative of shipping companies asked for a high bridge with ample clearance. Mrs. Pete Finley wanted to know if and when the Biggs bridge would be completed.

Present were Ken Fridley, highway commissioner who presided, Judge Vernon Miller, Tom Edwards, engineer, Forrest Cooper, assistant highway engineer, Floyd Query, secretary to the commission, members of the staff of the Bureau of Public Roads and the U. S. Engineers.

Panel Discusses Teen Age Problems

There was a panel discussion on teen age problems and juvenile delinquency with David Reid, John Lutz, Sandy Zachary and Jeannette Belshee as the teen agers taking part. Don Kohlmeier, the fifth and six grade teacher at Rufus school was in charge of the discussion. The boys and girls on the panel were well prepared with their speeches, and the parents and teachers of Rufus school enjoyed it very much at the Rufus PTA meeting Monday night. Mrs. Kenneth Spagle, chairman of the PTA, conducted a business meeting which followed the program. Jack Lloyd, principal of Rufus school said the 8th grade graduation will be May 25 at 7 p. m. Father Martin Quigley, Enterprise, will be the speaker. The members of the PTA are to bring cookies to serve for refreshments after graduation.

ALPINE BARLEY LOOKS GOOD

The newly introduced winter barley Alpine survived the winter in excellent condition and has real promise for use in the county. Final proof will be when harvest time arrives and yields can be ascertained. A real desirable feature of the barley is its stiffer straw and an erect rather than nodding head.

Comparative percentage of survival or stand were estimated on trials at the Sherman branch experiment station by W. E. Hall, superintendent. Winter damage resulted with a minus 10° F. temperature on January 2. Of four varieties survival was Alpine 80%, Olympia 70%, Winter Club 60%, and Flynn 10%.

Alpine barley is scattered over the county. Every farmer should take a look at a field in his area to watch its progress and determine its adaptability. Growers who have an acreage are: Certified barley upon planting - Charles Davis, Curtis Neal, John Decker, Wilbur Haggerty, Vinton Watkins, F. L. Watkins, Leland Medler, Gordon Harper, Pal Wallace, Paul Fraser, Allen Tom, and Willard Harper. Growers who planted Alpine secured from Union county were: Don & Bill Macnab, Elton Medler, Hildred Zell, Pete Macnab, Ted Thompson, Hall & Belshee, Vernon Miller and Bill Todd.

Summer School Children Chosen For June Journey

Sixteen Sherman County 4-H'ers were chosen last week to attend 4-H Summer School at Corvallis, June 20-27, reports Carol Armstrong, Sherman County extension agent. The group, selected by the 4-H Leader's Ass'n. Award committee, will travel by bus to the Oregon State college campus.

While on campus, the 4-H'ers will attend educational classes, as well as participate in special activities such as parties, swimming, band and chorus, and a special Centennial pageant.

Each year, interested individuals and groups provide scholarships for the 4-H'ers. The club members can attend only on the basis of winning a scholarship through good club work. Those attending the 1959 session and their scholarship donors are: Karen Powell, Pacific Coast Aberdeen Angus Auxiliary; Doug Reid, Safeway Stores, Inc.; Lana Jean Paulson, J. C. Penny Company; Nancy McKean, Sherman County Fair Ass'n; Ron Mobley, Cushman Equipment; Karen Macnab, 4-H Leaders Ass'n; Robert Powell, Sherman County Cattlemen's Ass'n; Virgil Fields, U. S. National Bank; Alice Kaseberg, U. S. National Bank; Darlene Miller, Marshall's Food Store; Marilyn Smith, Sherman Cooperative Grain Growers; Vee Busse, Sherman Branch First National Bank; Michael Kenney, Wasco Electric; Barbara Hampton, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Bruckert.

FAIR BOARD MAKES PLANNING PROGRESS

Some additional plans were made at the Wednesday night meeting of the fair board which has the dual role for the present of putting on a June rodeo and planning for an August fair.

An effort will be made to obtain some additional county funds for FFA events and Jack Cushman, chairman, met with the budget committee Thursday. No changes were made in the fair program as previously announced.

There is now a likelihood that the June rodeo will include some horse races as horse owners are free at that time of year and willing to come. Some acts were contemplated and the races may be substituted for them. John Mette, publicity man for the Northwest Rodeo association will handle the advertising and publicity.

The Altar society of Grass Valley will give the dance and the orchestra will play during some of the performances.

Farmers Fewer, But Distributors Increase

The number of U. S. farmers may be decreasing every year but the number of people working in agriculture is steadily increasing and the job outlook for this year's graduates in agriculture may be about the brightest in history, according to Oregon State officials.

"down on the farm" is getting smaller because farm operations are getting bigger, and because per acre production is ever climbing.

To many, the fact that the number of persons employed on farms has dropped from 13,555,000 in 1913 to 7,525,000 in 1958 is a sign that opportunities in agriculture are dimming.

Exactly the reverse is true, says Wilbur Cooney, associate dean of agriculture at OSC.

Agriculture is the nation's biggest single industry. It employs 40 percent of the 65 million people who work in the United States today and its customers increase as rapidly as the population of the nation.

Behind the 8 million farmers and ranchers today, are some 7 million workers who produce the equipment and supplies for and who service farmers, and another 11 million who process and distribute farm food and fiber products—meat and poultry packing, dairy processing, food processing, textiles and fibers. In addition, a half million scientists directly or indirectly serve agriculture—research in feeds, plant and animal growth, better food products.

Recent surveys show that some 15,000 new college graduates with agricultural training are needed each year now for agricultural-type jobs. This year, less than half that number—about 7,000—will graduate from the nation's 60 land-grant colleges, Cooney pointed out. OSC will graduate about 175 student in agriculture this June.

Wheat Growers Hear About Farm Programs

Wheat farmers and their wives met to eat together at Grass Valley Thursday night and pay honor to Mr. and Mrs. Delmer Smith, winners of the Conservation Man of the Year award. His parents and children were also given acclaim when introduced by Mac Hall, chairman.

Jack Whiteman, head of Empire Machinery company, presented the award and talked briefly about a visit to Lebanon, once a wonderfully fertile spot, that was wasted through careless soil methods until it had to be terraced so it could support the people. He proclaimed himself a devout believer in soil saving.

Steve Burnet told about the wheat league stock show to be in The Dalles June 7 to 10 and that its support would be appreciated.

Frank Tubbs, OWGL president, said that regional organizations were being formed and that the Western Wheat Associates was set up to handle many problems of wheat growers.

Floyd Root, president of the National Wheat growers, talked about the wheat stabilization plan now in congress but without much hope of passage. It would restrict wheat by bushels, not acres and it is opposed by labor leaders, city congressmen and feed growers and has not been accepted by congressional leaders so far. It is possible that nothing will be done, he said, but a cut in acres is likely and perhaps a reduction from 15 to 12 acres for small farmers.

Henry Stuppler of OSC, explained the dollar income from the present plan on a hypothetical farm of 1000 acres. At present the income would be \$21,300; under the stabilization plan it would be \$23,312 the first year and \$21,226 the second year. Without any supports at all the income would be \$15,000 with the wheat price estimated at \$1.00 per bushel. At \$1.20 it would be \$18,000.

Sherman county committee chairmen reported on the work of their groups, first Marguerite Kaseberg said the cake contest would be a white cake. The economist has resigned and insufficient funds are available to hire another at present.

Ted Thompson said that marketing was handicapped because some poor quality wheat had been shipped. Hildred Zell reported that the federal farm program plan had been explained by Root; Larry Kaseberg again called attention to the stock show and wheat league participation. Paulen Kaseberg reported for taxation and legislation by saying that a new commodity commission bill had been written and passed. Allan Pinkerton talked for the Production and Land Use committee; research appropriations are down, he said.

Track Meet To Include 11 Teams

The track and field meet for the 6B league will be held at the Sherman High school grounds next Saturday when teams from Sherman, Maupin, Sisters, Culver, Condon, Wheeler, Arlington, Cascade Locks, Dufur and probably Lapine and Mosier will compete in a full list of events.

The preliminaries will start at 10:30 a. m. and finals will start at one o'clock.

With eleven teams in the meet spectators should be able to see some close contests and good times and distances for the events and it also should assure a good crowd.

Portland Cattle Grown Elsewhere

A fraction less than 50 percent of the cattle moving through the North Portland stockyards last year originated in Oregon, according to records of the state department of agriculture.

Washington accounted for 28 percent of the cattle and Canada for 12 percent. Montana, with 5 percent, was third on the import list and Idaho was fourth with just under 4 percent.

Other states from which cattle originated were Wyoming, Utah, California, Arizona, Wisconsin, North Dakota and Nebraska—in descending order. This group of states contributed less than 1 per cent.

