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OREGON'S CENTENNIAL ALBUM PAGE 38
REVEREND THOMAS LAMB ELIOT
 1841-1936



MAYBE WE'RE WRONG

A visitor at the meeting of the wheat league in Pendleton last week told a parable: when the Japanese marched into Manila during the last big war a group of Americans were holding a party in a big Manila hotel. When the invaders broke into the hotel the Americans moved to the second floor and continued with their dining and dancing and drinking and up to the third and fourth, as the Japanese came on up with their bayonets at the ready. It went on and on until the party moved onto the roof above the tenth story whereupon the Japanese soldiers threw them off into the street or bayoneted them.

The American wheat growers have been the party and the forces of economy are the invading soldiers.

The editor of the Pendleton East Oregonian wrote an editorial saying, in part, that time was running out and more than one speaker said that this was the time when something had to be done. We have said it ourselves.

It looks plumb simple: the American people will not long stand for a subsidy that grows and grows and never gets smaller or improves the condition; we have more than a year's crop in surplus piled here and there and wasting, the situation gets worse by the year, by the day as storage changes grow greater; congress is tired of trying to find a solution and will eventually abandon the whole thing, protect the little farmer who has had but little help anyway, and let the big farmer go hang.

Well, farmers in this wheat belt have been used to such things. There's never a year that someone doesn't think his crop is frozen out; never a June that some farmer doesn't prophesy that unless it rains by tomorrow he'll never pull his combine into the field; never a fall but it is too dry to seed some place. Things are always going to pot and the farmer in these parts is an experienced calamity howler. Maybe this is nothing more.

This has nothing to do with the fact that the present farm law is a bit of legislation no sane person or party will claim; that it is idiotic and ignorant to subsidize a surplus crop; that paying a bonus to reduce production is impossible because people are always smarter than government.

That the government is paying wheat farmers some billions more than their crop is worth arouses no great worry in our head. It is but one of the crazy things government does when it gets too big, too powerful, too extravagant. It is still not so foolish as colonizing the moon. That wheat farmers are getting a bonus does worry us considerably because it has reduced, if not killed, that fine spirit of independence and self-reliance that made them successful, that made it possible for them to build farms out of bunchgrass hills in spite of drought, weeds, poor transportation, make-shift machinery and other vintages grandpa remembers. The government may be able to give, the farmer cannot forever receive and retain his spirit.

As long as politicians can be scared spiteless when the price of hogs drop, as long as the middle west is a political battleground, as long as farm organizations meet and petition, as long as the two parties are about equal in strength, there may be no end to it.

"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
 Where wealth accumulates, and men decay."

This mid-Columbia area is disgustingly conservative with hardly a sample of the good old American radical. Its governments are staid, inert, immovable. Its farmers are organized, directed, regimented. Change is feared and dreaded. The past twenty-five years has been a period of social and spiritual decadence, accompanied, as is usual, by economic affluence.

Perhaps, then, we shall not be thrown overboard into economic oblivion by an unloving government, but instead, stabbed by the bayonet of self satisfaction.

COUNTY CHARTER

It is expected that a petition will be presented to the county court soon asking that it appoint a committee to study and write a charter for Sherman county.

Such a charter would, if approved by the voters, free the county from some legislation that hampers it. Since small counties lost so much of their representative power they seldom get much recognition in Salem with the result that they must abide by laws that are difficult if not impossible of enforcement.

County government in Oregon, and in most states, is archaic. It was devised in minor times and is the oldest of our governments. It is in serious need of reform.

A new law following the passage of a constitutional amendment makes it possible for counties to adopt a charter and increase their power to govern themselves. This is very desirable. It is no longer necessary for a county to adopt a county manager system to establish a different government; it can put the power in a county board—or, in fact any place its voters decide.

There are several organizations with helpful information about county charters and several states permit that kind of government. The league of Oregon counties will provide information and there are always some local citizens with knowledge of county government and familiar with the needs of the county. It is our opinion that it would be most helpful in Sherman county.

STARLING BAIT

A story coming out of handicapped Portland newspaper (or papers) says that some genius has discovered a way to rid a city of starlings, a bird that prefers life on city buildings instead of life in rural trees where it is popularly supposed, birds belong.

It seems that starlings like cold fried potatoes and that in itself is further evidence that starlings are odd to the point of insanity. The potatoes are treated with a "toxic agent," a term used, we are sure to keep from saying bluntly that the birds are poisoned. There are gentle souls in every city who would gladly withstand some one else's misery to keep from harming any living creature.

We are sure we could easily find persons who think that a cold French fried potato would be lethal itself without the addition of a "toxic agent." Maybe starlings are different, until the invention of a handy little kitchen gadget the making of French fries required some time and a lot of perseverance and a good humored cook. That's not so hard to find because the fat and happy cooks are the only ones who'll cook French fries anyway.

In the olden days when potatoes were a dollar a sack and the sack held 100 pounds it was different. Before they got rid of all the starlings we'd like to have a committee appointed to determine why starlings can be tempted with French fries and acorn cold boiled potatoes. Not that the information would be valuable but like everyone else in this day and age we're goofy about committees.

STATE HIGHWAY ACCEPTS BID ON GRASS VALLEY KENT ROAD IMPROVEMENT

At the meeting of the state highway commission in Salem Tuesday a contract for grading and paving 6.74 miles of Highway 97 between Grass Valley and Kent was let to Vernie Jarl of Gresham for \$474,358.

WORLD'S COLUMN

To The Editor:
 Some one has committed, we hope inadvertently, a crime against the U. S. Government in Sherman County. A portion of a rain-gauge has been removed from its stand near a fertilizer plot on the Lehman-Medler farm between Wasco and Rufus. It was taken sometime between December 3 & 5. The portion taken cannot be used as a rain-gauge and the measuring stick was not taken. The copper can is used to catch flying snow which is melted and poured into the small measuring tube.

The precipitation data is an important part of the experiment which is to determine how deeply nitrogen is leached into the sandy soil. It is hoped that the person or persons reading this and realizing that the "tin" can was used for will replace it at the experiment.

A substitute can has been placed there to insure the collection of all rain and snow, but the original is needed. This is property of the United States Government and is so marked. The experiment is being conducted cooperatively by the U.S.D.A. and the Sherman Branch Experiment Station.

I would appreciate it if you would print this item in your paper.
 Thank you,
 William E. Hall

HARLANDVIEW GRANGE

Harlandview Grange met in regular session after bounteous potluck dinner. There were 17 members and two visitors present. Election of state officers was the special order of business.

Sunday, December 13 at 1:30 p. m. there will be installation of officers for Rufus, Harlandview and Pomona Granges. Mildred Norman, state secretary, will be the installing officer. All members please be present.

Harlandview Grange Christmas party will be Friday night at 8 p. m. There will be exchange of gifts. Everyone bring a gift to exchange with your neighbor. Also there will be treats for all.

December 10 Home Ec club met to wrap gifts for members of Columbia Basin Nursing Home. Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Johnson were visitors at grange last meeting. Brother Johnson is our county deputy and Mrs. Johnson is district youth chairman.

HARLANDVIEW GRANGE Meets First and Third Mondays each month at 8:00 p. m.

Helen Bruckert, Master
 Florence Bruckert, Secretary
 Eureka Lodge No. 121 A.F.A.A. I Meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings each month. Visiting members cordially invited to meet with us.
 Clarence Higley, W. M.
 Clyde Gillmor, Secretary

MORO LODGE NO. 113 I.O.O.F.

Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in I.O.O.F. hall. Transient and visiting brothers are cordially invited.
 Floyd Haines, N. C.
 Leo Watkins, Secretary

Bethlehem Chapter No. 78 O.E.S.

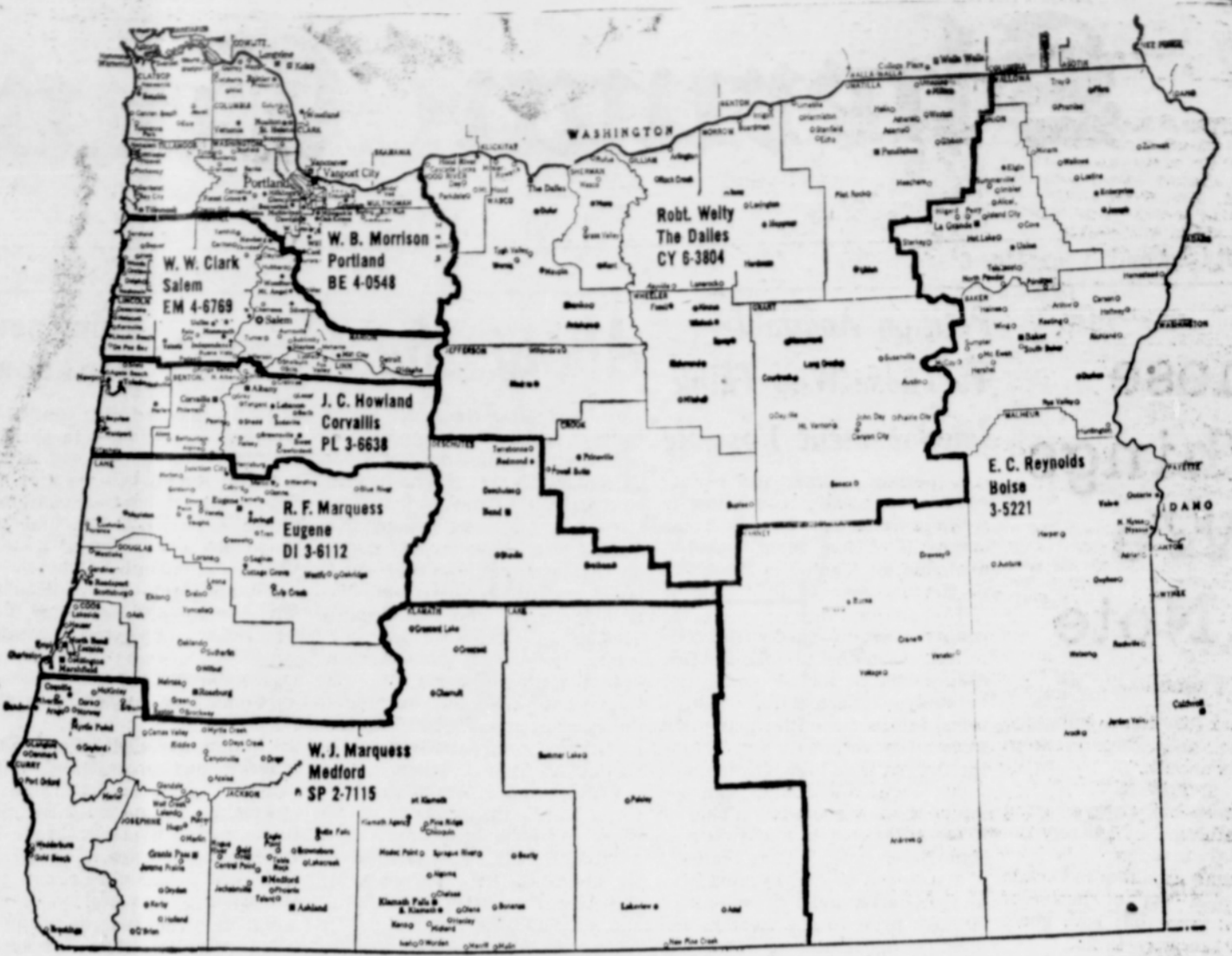
Meets every second Thursday each month. Visiting members invited. Moro, Ore.
 Imogene Hailley, W. M.
 Dorothy Heater, Secretary

Taylor Lodge A.F. & A.M.

Wasco, Oregon
 Meets each First and Third Tuesdays
 Doug Shull, W. M.
 Carl Tuggle, Secretary

Lupine Rebekah Lodge No. 114

Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Visiting members welcome.
 Mary Brackett, N. G.
 Helen Martin, Secretary



SAVE THIS MAP IN CASE OF PUBLIC DISASTER

The Consulting Engineers Association of Oregon, as a public service project, has set up a Public Disaster Committee. To help immediately in case of a disaster, Oregon has been divided into seven districts and a disaster contact engineer has been appointed in each district. The districts, engineers and their telephone numbers are shown on the above map. In case of a public disaster, like the Roseburg explosion of last August, a call to the disaster contact engineer in your district will bring immediate help to determine what buildings and utilities are safe and for how long. Clip out this map for use in case of a future emergency.

Rufus Personal

The Rufus Grange met Dec. 3 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Millard Leigh. All officers excepting two were present. The master, George Fox presided. Mrs. Harland McDonald told of the need of legislation for farmers. Also that our president started on a world tour. The Home Ec club will meet Dec. 10 at the home of Mrs. Geo. Fox. Mrs. Elva Dehler will be present to demonstrate gift wrapping. Each member to bring a package and wrappings. The ladies will serve the football banquet for Sherman High Dec. 14. The next meeting will be Dec. 17 at the Trace Fields home starting with a 6:30 p. m. dinner. The club will serve chicken and noodles and the grange members bring the rest of the dinner potluck or just salad and dessert.

WANT ADS

CONSIGN your livestock to your local auction The Dalles Live-

stock Commission, Inc. Live-stock sales every Wednesday at noon. Special community auctions of household, machinery, poultry, etc. the 1st Saturday of each month starting Dec. 5th. Phone CY 6-4672, The Dalles, Oregon. 5c ttn

STATE WIDE PAINT CO. complete painting and decorating service, spray or brush. Phone CY 6-3977 or CY 6-5293, 1205 E. 12th St. Vern Campbell and Jack Null, The Dalles, Or. 38ttn

FOR Agricultural loans see The Dalles NFLA and the Mid-Columbia PCA, 4th & Court Streets, Wasco. 21-25c

Custom Slaughter by appointment only. Meat cutting, wrapping, sharp freeze. Kenny's Market, Grass Valley, Oregon. Call ED 3-2345 for appointment.

FOR SALE: Toy Terrier pup—make an offer. Carl Ziegler, Wasco. 6c

Smith Callaway Chapel FUNERAL SERVICE
 Leonard R. Smith
 Phone CY 6-3135
 The Dalles, Oregon

Coming high water has caused the Blalock Store to

Sell Out

December 12, at 11:00 a. m.
EVERYTHING SELLS

- COMPLETE CAFE EQUIPMENT** 4 Refrigerators
- COMPLETE GROCERY EQUIP.** 2 Dining Sets
- 2 Washing Machines 4 Chest of Drawers
- Dryer 5 Ton Jack
- Garbage Dispenser Dayton Meat Slicer
- Burrough's Adding Machine Steam Table
- Business Deck 2 National Cash Registers
- Wurlitzer Music Box Groceries
- Piano & Bench Strong Box Safe
- NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS**
 Frank Wink, Auctioneer
 Dozens and Dozens of Individual Items

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed as administratrix of the estate of Amandus D. von Borstel, deceased, and has qualified as such administratrix. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified and required to present the same, duly verified, to the undersigned, Emily von Borstel, R. F. D. Kent, Oregon within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice. The date of the first publication of this notice is December 11, 1936.
 EMILY von BORSTEL, Administratrix of the estate of Amandus D. von Borstel, deceased.
 BROWN & VAN VACTOR The Dalles, Oregon Attorneys for Estate 6c