

Sherman County Journal

Seventy-Second Year No. 20

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County Official Paper

These Things We Note

Giles L. French

The appointment of Judge Hall Lusk to the senate sends to Washington a learned jurist, a fine gentleman, a man with a tolerant understanding of people, who, had he the time, would become one of Oregon's best senators.

TTWN

Something akin to an old horse trade occurred last week when Lester Johnson and George Helms got into a trade over fishing transportation. Helms traded his slightly larger palomino for Johnson's old, dependable bay. Both men are happy; traded were jeans.

TTWN

Nolan Skiff in the Pendleton East-Oregonian notes the paucity of chinooks this winter and makes minor complaint about it, with justice we think. The chinook wind is one of the most distinctive things about our eastern Oregon weather and there's nothing fresher, more invigorating, and nothing that makes the promise of spring more real. Cease repining, there'll come a day when the tumble weeds will go scattering over the plowed fields and the hens will cackle in glee and spring will ride in on the broad, warm bosom of a good old fashioned chinook.

TTWN

For one who no longer has to comb his hair it is rather heartening to note that most of the world's governments are in the hands of men who would be considered past their prime by forty year olds if the younger men could compete with them. There's Adenauer who goes gray along in his eighties and DeGaulle who is no spring chicken although built somewhat like one and Eisenhower who is approaching seventy and Khrushchev, past the arbitrary American retirement age and still bouyant although more sober. We feel safer with them.

TTWN

Our devices for communication are almost proof that man can develop tools faster than he can develop uses for them. A local small boy was about to hit his brother with a hammer when stopped by his mother. He had learned that that was a proper way to become a hero by watching television.

TTWN

We wonder who mixes the colors for car paints and often we wonder if he does it while sober.

TTWN

If you do what have to do you are a slave; if you do what you want to do you are a free man and the choice is most often yours.

TTWN

Everybody surely knows by now that the senate is waiting until a milder civil rights bill comes over from the house. The whole filibuster has been managed for political purposes and very likely Senator Johnson has been the guiding hand. He is a very shrewd politician.

TTWN

Let's see, its coming on toward spring (we hope) and time to begin to worry about the stand of wheat, the fate of the favorite baseball team, the slowness of garden truck. Any of which will be a relief from worry over snow, basketball and the fuel bill.

TTWN

Most of our troubles, we suspect, are caused by ourselves and many are half cured when we recognize it.

TTWN

We've made so many new things in recent years, wonderful inventions and discoveries. It is really too bad so few are better than the old.

TTWN

The Russians, we read, do not like Nixon. Naturally, he did more than anyone to break up their hand of spies.

TTWN

What this country needs is a bunch of witch doctors. Good ones were probably more effective than head shrinkers and we need a better way to keep from worrying ourselves sick.

Sherman Basketeers Have Bad Luck In State Tournament

Sherman's basketball team, easy winners of the 6B championship had poor luck at the state tournament held last week end at Baker, losing the first game to Alsea 53-47 after leading through most of the second half. Friday, in the consolation round, they lost to Halfway to be completely eliminated from the tournament which was eventually won by Malin in a victory over Powers.

Parents of players and many others went to Baker to support the team in good style but the boys seemed unable to maintain an offensive long enough to win in the kind of competition offered.

Helgsted Attends Winter Olympics

Einer Helgsted is back home in Grass Valley after two weeks spent at Squaw Valley where he was in charge of the preliminary ski jumps, having had a great deal of experience with that sport in Norway before coming to this country. He was a competitor in previous Olympics.

His job was to see that conditions for every contestant was equal to that of any other which meant seeing that the course was in good shape every day. Considering the weather that was something of a job. Helgsted met a cousin who was on the Norwegian team and skiers from every country in the world.

Bank Debts Down In Mid-Columbia

Bank debts for the Upper Columbia River area including Gilliam, Hood River, Sherman, Wasco and Wheeler counties decreased by 4.2 per cent in January, 1960 as compared to December, 1959 and increased by 9.4 per cent a year ago.

Debits for January, 1960 totaled \$30,856,357; for December, 1959 the total was \$32,205,142; and for January, 1959 the total amounted to \$28,217,065.

Oregon with 190 banks reporting, had a decrease in bank debts in January, 1960 of 6.4 per cent over December, 1959 and an increase of 4.7 per cent over January, 1959. Total debts for Oregon in January, 1960 came to \$2,061,867,516; December, 1959 totaled \$2,201,943,905; and January a year ago reached \$1,968,388,845.

Bank debts represent the dollar value of checks drawn against the deposit accounts of individuals and business firms. Bank debts are considered good indicators of current business activity. Each month the Bureau of Business Research at the University of Oregon collects data on bank debts from Oregon banks and branches.

Short Again Head

Frank McKennon, director of the state department of agriculture since January, 1959, will retire April 1 and will be succeeded by J. F. Short, who held the post from November, 1954 to March, 1957. The dual announcement was made March 9 by Gov. Hatfield.

Both men are widely known throughout the state, and both have farms near Salem. McKennon raises sheep. Short lives on a 250-acre farm and also owns 115 acres of processing crop land near the home place.

Both men first came to the department from east of the mountains. Short from a long ranching and business experience near Redmond and McKennon from the Imbler area of Union county. Short disposed of his extensive Deschutes Grain and Feed company holding in 1946 and of his beef-wheat, potato-seed ranches in central Oregon when the late Governor Patterson appointed him director of agriculture upon the resignation of E. L. Peterson.

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Law On School Elections Told By Superintendent

By Lynn O. Hampton
County School Superintendent

The law now requires that the Annual Meeting of School Districts be held on the first Monday in May, May 2, 1960, from 2 until 8 p. m. at the schoolhouse in each of Sherman County's five elementary school districts. At that time a director will be elected for a five year term in each of the districts.

To place a candidate's name on the ballot, a petition signed by not less than 3% of the number of voters at last year's annual meeting, or in no case less than 10, must be presented to the clerk of the district at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting. The candidate must also present an acceptance of nomination with the clerk at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting.

In the Rural School District, a director will be elected from Zone 2, Wasco. To place a candidate's name on the ballot, a petition signed by at least 25 legal voters must be presented to the County School Superintendent at least 30 days before the annual meeting. The candidate must also present an acceptance of nomination at least 30 days before the date of annual meeting. This acceptance is also filed with the County School Superintendent. The candidate is nominated and elected in the Zone, except when the candidates at large are elected.

In the County High School District, a director will be elected from Zone 5, Kent. To place a candidate's name on the ballot, the candidate must declare his candidacy by filing a written declaration of candidacy with the county clerk at least 15 days prior to the annual meeting. The candidate is nominated in the Zone, but elected by the voters of the entire County High School District.

Petition forms may be obtained from either the clerk of the district or the County School Superintendent.

Farm Bureau Likes Teacher Merit Plan

Gerald Detering, president of the Oregon Farm Bureau, today complimented the National Association of Secondary School Principals for their stand on a merit pay system for teachers. The group meeting in Portland reportedly agreed merit pay would be used extensively in the near future. The merit pay plan is actually being used or under consideration by many Oregon schools right now, said Detering.

He said the Farm Bureau has long advocated the merit pay method of rewarding teachers if we are to upgrade our education system in the United States. Said Detering, "We hear much talk about improving our education system across the land, however, the thought of paying higher wages to good teachers has not met with unanimous consent of all groups."

County Buys More Savings Bonds

U. S. Savings Bonds sales in Sherman county amounted to \$14,031 for the month of February.

State sales for the month totaled \$3,098,501 slightly better than a year ago. For the benefit of the estimated one-in-four county residents who own bonds the county chairman reminded that "all interest rates on U. S. Series E and H Bonds, old and new, have been raised by at least one-half per cent from June, 1959 on. Savings Bonds now on sale earn 3 1/2 per cent when held until maturity. Series E grows in cash value for 7 years and 9 months at which time it matures. After maturity it continues to draw interest under a 10-year automatic extension privilege. Series H brings you interest twice yearly for 10 years."

SHERMAN GOOD

There are six counties in Oregon with not a single Bang's record thus having a perfect record. Next to them are seven counties with but one reactor and Sherman is one of those. Nearly seed in summer fallowed fields, Wasco, Wheeler and Morrow are creating a new weed problem also in this second group.

Future Farmers Flock To Pendleton For Annual Convention

Marvin Robertson, local instructor of vocational agriculture, will attend the spring meetings of the Oregon Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association in Pendleton March 17 and 18.

Committee chairmen from each reports of accomplishments. Each of the ten districts is responsible for a portion of the OVATA program of work.

Past vice-president of the Pacific region including the eleven western states, Don Kabler, and Norman Koopman will present reports on the national agriculture teachers association convention. Mr. Kabler is vocational agriculture teacher at Corvallis High School. Ron Mobley and Terry Kaseberg are delegates from Sherman chapter and Allen Miller and Malcolm Eslinger are alternates. Ron is a candidate for the Union Pacific scholarship and a member of the nominating committee; Terry is a candidate for the state farmer degree and has applied for farm mechanics award. Allen has applied for state soil and water management award. These will be decided at the award program to be held Friday night at the Pendleton High School.

New Highway Job Well Started

Grading of the highway between Grass Valley and Kent south of the end of the last work done in 1958 is getting along well despite some unfavorable weather. The new route into Finnegan from the south is nearly all graded. In general the road follows the old route but south of Finnegan runs up the draw thereby adding the hazard of occasional flood to highway maintenance.

Farmers Aiding Project To End Cheat Grass Menace

Some of the farmers in Sherman county are teaming up with Oregon State college agricultural scientists in an attempt to win the battle against cheatgrass, a troublesome weed in Eastern Oregon. Cheatgrass is an annual bromegrass that germinates in the fall, right along with fall-sown wheat or barley. It has become an increasingly serious problem in grain fields of the Columbia Basin counties in both Oregon and Washington.

Experimental work on test plots at the Pendleton and Sherman branch stations, as well as at OSC, uncovered new weed-killing chemicals that may help solve this problem. Two families of chemicals have been discovered that selectively kill cheatgrass without harming winter wheat or barley.

The most promising members of these two chemical families, called triazines and phenylurea herbicides, are now being given extensive on-the-farm tests in Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, and Umatilla counties this winter.

Farmers taking part in Sherman county are: Carl von Borstel, Grass Valley; Paul and Doug Alley, Moro; Allen Tom, Don and Bill Macnab and Charles Kuyper, Rufus; L. E. Kaseberg, Wasco; George Wilson, Kent and Bill Todd, Grass Valley.

Different dates and times of application of these promising chemicals are being checked on plots in wheat and barley fields on these farms. The experimental plots will be harvested this summer to check the effect of the chemicals on yield, as well as on amount of cheatgrass and other weeds killed at the various rates and dates of application.

The OSC experiment stations have also been working on ways to control cheatgrass and other weeds during the summer fallow year. Much of the grain growing land in the Columbia Basin is summer fallowed every other year, to control weeds and build up soil moisture and nitrogen.

Today's larger farms are making it increasingly difficult to summer fallow each piece of land at the correct time, particularly in years of wet weather. As a result, cheatgrass and other weeds often grow enough to produce seed in summer fallowed fields, when grain is sown in the fall.

Few Filings Make Primaries Look Uninteresting

Sherman countians who have filed for office at the May primaries and will be competing for votes from now until then if in a contest are: Vernon Miller, democrat for county judge; Lester Wilson, republican, for four year term as county commissioner; L. E. Kaseberg, republican, Fred Dormaier, democrat, for two year term as county commissioner; Clair Balzer democrat, for county assessor; Marie Hoskinson, republican for county clerk. There will be no contests in the primaries unless there are some write-in votes and only one in the general election.

Mrs. Collis Moore has filed for republican national committee-woman and has no competition. Paulen Kaseberg has filed for state representative on the republican ticket and will have no primary competition.

Committeemen File

For precinct committeemen and women the republicans filed a complete slate: Frank and Beth Reid, Rufus, Larry and Sheryl Kaseberg, Wasco, Collis Moore and Reba Hall, Moro, Gene and Nadine Reynolds, Grass Valley, Frank and Floye von Borstel, Kent. Democrats filing were Gladys Zell and John Hilderbrand, Wasco, Curlye DeMoss and Gwen Ross, Moro, James and Carmen Brown, Grass Valley.

Sherman County Club Meeting March 29

The next meeting of the Sherman County Club will be held Tuesday evening March 29 at the Masonic hall in Moro with the dinner catered by Deefo's, says Frank Ketter, president of the club.

Program committeemen Max Barzee and Bob Ferrell have the program arrangements in hand.

American Legion Eats Oysters

Over 100 people attended the oyster dinner held in the Kent Legion hall Sunday by the auxiliary of the George Bell post to celebrate the 41st birthday of the Legion.

Mrs. Kenneth Hattrup assisted by Mrs. A. A. Dunlap, Mrs. Alfred Kock and Mrs. Harry Stark fried the oysters. Among those assisting with the dinner were Mrs. C. W. Fields, Mrs. Clair Balzer, Mrs. A. von Borstel, Mrs. J. E. Norton, Mrs. Wallace May, Mrs. Oliver Schadevitz, Mrs. Max Nogel, Mrs. Jim Brown and Mrs. Marcus Eslinger.

Commander Mark Bird assisted by adjutant Clair Balzer acted as master of ceremonies.

Mrs. J. E. Norton read the Legion birthday prayer. At the conclusion of the dinner Mrs. Wallace May, 1st vice-president, presented a large birthday cake to the commander of the Legion. It was made and decorated with the Legion's insignia by Mrs. Hattrup. Mrs. Hattrup was surprised by having a lighted cake presented to her in honor of her birthday. It was made by Mrs. George von Borstel. The Happy Birthday song was sung.

Mrs. Frank von Borstel announced the following program: a piano duet "Campus Capers" by Jo Nogel and Alice Ann Reckmann; a piano duet "The Bells of St. Mary's" by Teresa Bardenhagen and Patty Knott. A bouquet of red roses were on the piano.

Then the drawing for the steer which was purchased by the Legion for the Jack Series fund was held. The tickets were all placed in a cardboard cylinder and were shaken up by commander Bird and tiny Judy von Borstel, daughter of the George von Borstels, drew the lucky number which was Harold Eakin. The rest of the afternoon was spent visiting and the children played in the gym. Out of town guests present were Mr. and Mrs. Darwin Van Gilder, commander and president of Chris Schultz post of Moro, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Horn, past district commander and past president of Hood River, Mr. and Mrs. Theo Justesen and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Feely of Tygh Valley and Mrs. Leta Eslinger of Moro.

Postoffice Job Will Start Monday Says McVicker, Contractor

Virgil McVicker and son, who are together in the McVicker Investment company of Richland, Washington, were here early Monday morning to start operations toward the construction of a new postoffice building on First street on property formerly owned by Chris Schultz post, American Legion and Clarence Huls, for which the postoffice department had obtained options last year.

Mr. McVicker states that the building will be 28 x 55 feet in dimension and will be of concrete block construction with a brick veneer front and will be Class A, construction. He expects to start demolition next week and hopes to be done May first.

Grange Conference Held At Rufus

The State Grange conference for the counties of Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam and Wheeler counties was held Monday afternoon at Rufus Grange hall. Victor Croxton, state grange lecturer, had charge of the meeting and coached the lecturers of the different counties about their duties. There was a pot luck dinner at 6 p. m. with Rufus furnishing the meat, potatoes, vegetables and rolls and the visiting grangers the dessert and salad. About eighty attended and more came to attend the evening meeting. Earl Moore of the state agriculture committee, was the first speaker and talked on farm activities of grange members. Roy Means, state deputy, talked on membership and insurance programs of which there are many. Mildred Norman, state grange secretary lead the group in action songs. State Grange Master Elmer McClure talked on the fraternal and other parts of grange work. Afterward cake and coffee was served.

The dinner was served in the new dining room and two long tables which were covered with white cloths and spring daffodils and greenery made a pretty setting. The white marquisette curtains on the windows complemented the tables.

Oregon Motorists Are Often Guilty

Oregon motorists were convicted of 16,188 traffic violations in February, according to court reports received by the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles.

This marks an increase of nearly 3500 convictions over those reported for February of last year.

Suspensions were meted 374 drivers by the courts and by discretionary action of licensing officials. The Driver Improvement program accounted for 125 of these, basing its temporary suspensions on driving records of problem motorists.

Water Prospects Look "Fair" Now

The water supply outlook for the 1960 irrigation season, April through Sept. in the Hood River valley and Wasco county is "fair" to "poor" according to report of W. T. Frost, snow survey supervisor.

Water content of the mountain snowpack is 47% of 1943-57 normal and 96% of last year. Snow at lower elevations is significantly better than a year ago. Brooks Meadows on Feb. 25 had a water content of 6.8 inches compared to an expected normal of 15.0 on April 1.

In a normal winter there is usually 85% of the total winter's snowpack on the ground by March 1. This year only about 42% of a normal winter's snow has accumulated. Statewide, Oregon's water supply outlook for the spring and summer months of 1960 has improved somewhat during February but still varies from "low average conditions" to "poor." Conditions are improved over last year's "short" water situation except in the Hood River-Wasco and northeastern Oregon areas. Total stored water supplies are much below normal and watershed soils are still only partially "primed" under the poor snowpack.

Budgets Differ In Many Ways; Analysis Made

Budgets of the five elementary school districts are made and the final one starts publication this week. We often compare them because it is an interesting study in community habits and because some aid to school boards may be obtained by a comparison.

At the start of school in September the enrollment was 49 at Rufus, 126 at Wasco, 32 at Kent, 105 at Moro and 99 at Grass Valley. This does not include kindergartens in which Wasco had 13, Moro 18 and Grass Valley seven.

The estimated amount to be spent for teachers during the period covered by the budgets shows \$19,575 for Rufus which is a per capita cost of \$99.50; for Wasco \$49,625, per pupil \$368.08; Moro, \$6,435, per pupil \$347.00; Grass Valley \$25,180, per pupil \$244.15; Kent \$11,450, per pupil \$357.78.

There is some difference in the methods of dividing the principal's salary between teaching and administration. When all instruction cost is used it shows the following: Rufus \$28,020, per pupil \$443.10; Grass Valley \$28,880, per pupil \$290.76; Kent \$20,625, per pupil \$644.52.

Receipts shown on the budgets vary but little considering the size of the schools. Rufus estimates receipts at \$39,057; Wasco \$34,950; Moro \$28,968; Grass Valley \$33,542; Kent \$21,264. It is true that Grass Valley had a break when the method of dividing school funds was made a few years ago. It had \$17,000 on hand which it was permitted to keep and this has been a beneficial influence on that school's finances. Now conditions have leveled off and Grass Valley shows no larger amount than others.

The administration costs are estimated to be \$1610 at Rufus, \$1155 at Wasco; \$2655 at Moro; \$1245 at Grass Valley and \$812 at Kent.

The school lunch programs show some variation, perhaps because of contemplated purchases of equipment. At Rufus the total is \$2000, Wasco \$9660, Moro \$4853, at Grass Valley \$4700 and at Kent \$1775. The projected cost for food shows \$1800 or \$36.60 per pupil at Rufus; \$4450 or \$36.30 per pupil at Wasco; \$4313 or \$41.08 per pupil at Moro; \$4060 or \$41.00 per pupil at Grass Valley and \$1500 or \$46.87 per pupil at Kent.

Pupil transportation costs vary because some districts are buying buses and some are not and comparison for one year may be changed the next. Estimated cost will be \$7260 at Rufus, \$13,115 at Wasco; \$13,890 at Moro; \$14,000 at Grass Valley and \$10,975 at Kent.

Stock Increase On Oregon Farms

An official nose count shows cattle, sheep and hog numbers in Oregon at an all-time high, reports Mrs. Elvera Horrell, extension agriculture economist at OSC.

This year started with more than 1 1/2 million cattle and calves on Oregon's farms and ranches, Mrs. Horrell found as she studied reports from the U. S. department of agriculture. This put cattle numbers 6 percent above a year earlier and the highest on record. Most of this increase in cattle numbers was in beef-type animals. Mrs. Horrell said, although milk-type animals also increased in number. Beef cow numbers are the highest since 1955.

The nose count showed 5 beef cows to every 2 milk cows in the state, Mrs. Horrell also found. This was in contrast to the early 1940's when cow numbers in Oregon were about evenly divided between milk and beef.

Hogs and sheep in the state are also more numerous than at any time since the mid-1940's, Mrs. Horrell added. Horse and mule numbers held even with last year at 45,000 still the smallest number in Oregon since records were started in 1907.

Slightly fewer chickens were also on hand as the year started, and fewer turkey breeder hens. Nationally, livestock trends were reported much the same as in Oregon, except the horse and mule numbers continued downward.

The inventory value of livestock, both in Oregon and nationally, was reported down about 10 percent.