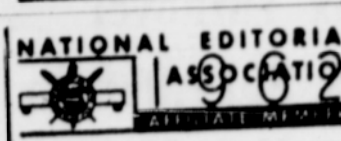


Sherman County Journal

Giles L. French Editor Published Every Friday at Moro, Oregon

Entered as second class matter at the Postoffice at Moro, Oregon, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.



OFFICIAL COUNTY PAPER

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

ONE YEAR \$3.00

DECEMBER 28, 1962

YEAR END REFLECTION

A group of scientists, thinkers and writers of sufficient talent to call themselves egg-heads met recently in California for a discussion of what is going on in the world, at least, which way the world seems to be tipping. Not many were cheerful.

Of primary consideration was the growth of population which was laid to the efficiency of doctors who have slowed the death rate by a half. This endangers democracy as a way of government, it was argued.

The egg-heads were probably right. Democracy contains the seeds of its own destruction whether there's too many people or not, for if not restrained in some manner democracy gives to common people, who are always greater in number than the uncommon people, the right to take by the ballot from the uncommon people. Whereupon the uncommon people join the common people and the production drops off.

Democracy works fine as long as there is an abundance of resources and not many people. Big crowds have to be handled with more discipline than democracy affords.

The idea of a world where there was just barely enough to eat didn't appeal to the egg-heads who probably realized that the luxury of thinking, of meeting and talking would be one of the first things eliminated in a world where everyone had to struggle for his fish head and bowl of gruel. So, hard times would probably do away with egg-heads.

Humans spent thousands of years getting thick enough to count 250,000 persons on the earth. Since then they have doubled more quickly each time and now are in the process of doubling three billion—a job that will be done by the year 2000.

You don't have to be an egg-head to worry about that, not if you are young enough to expect to live until the year 2000. The generation now passing might well be the last one to find living worth while, having been the one to utilize most of the ease making inventions to date and yet escape the rush of the feet of the perpetually hungry. Neither did they have to stand for the discipline that must follow.

NOT SO GOOD

Mr MacMillian and Mr. Kennedy met in Nassau in a well publicized talk and apparently decided on some important matters, especially a plan to give England some Polaris missiles instead of the Skybolt which was a failure until right after the session ended. It was also said that the U.S. would give Polaris missiles to France which has been aching for atomic weapons.

Whether the decisions were good or bad is not our topic. We are concerned that the peoples of the two nations, both of which government presumably people's government, should have an important decision made by two men without very much aid or advice from the elected legislators who represent the people. Mr. Khrushchev would have been roundly criticized had he spoken for Russia and called a dictator in the American press.

Mr. Kennedy rules without much advice from his cabinet and Mr MacMillian keeps his cabinet fresh and inexperienced in an effort to keep ahead of his growing number of critics. It was but a few years ago that an American president took a shipload of advisors when going to a meeting with a foreign power. Witness the large groups that went to Yalta and Teheran with Mr. Roosevelt and the gang that accompanied Mr Truman to the post war conference in Germany. True those conferences were all failures from an American standpoint, but they were not personal meetings.

Government may be getting so big the public cannot watch it which would precede a situation in which the public lost confidence.

BAKING SODA

We saw an advertisement the other day extolling the advantages of soda, mostly as a sort of medicine. For an upset stomach like the one that seems filled with acid that comes indirectly from distilled grain; for burns and to sweeten the breath.

The soda companies merged long ago under the brand name of Arm and Hammer because business was bad for years.

The uses of soda seem pretty tame when it is considered that soda was a necessity of early day cooking and as such had a place in the packs of miners and explorers for generations. Soda was the "raisin" for sour dough bread. One soon learned how much to use: if the bread was yellow that meant too much soda, if it was soggy it meant too little.

A pot of sour dough, kept warm near the stove, could be depended upon to need the sweetening effect of soda every day and still give off the aroma of home. Some of the hearty smelling mixture was poured out of the crock and mixed with flour and water and enough put back to keep the brew bubbling. Soda was used to make the carbon dioxide that raised the baked bread.

The result, if done by an expert, was a tender and tasty bread or stack of hot cakes that would have been relished by anyone, not only the hard working men whose appetites were whetted by fresh air, hard work and long hours of labor.

Along came baking powders that were used to make biscuits without sour dough and the diverse claims of baking powder makers about the health dangers in rival's brands much like the tooth paste makers now extol and disparage. The cooks used yeast dry and fresh before turning the job of bread making over to professional baker.

Surely all these methods and claims and brand name advertising have encouraged the use of flour without materially improving the product which has now reached a peak of price and punkiness sufficient to send either a cook or an economist back to the sour dough crock.

MAN OF THE YEAR

Now that TIME has made its choice of man of the year the season is officially opened although some have been chosen before. It is a great American custom to pick one man for distinction to give a boost to a program or policy and to pick some comely miss to be queen of something or other.

We suppose it doesn't do any harm except sometimes to the individual who may have a shiny look to his pate from skin distension for a few days, but his irreverent friends will take care of that. It doesn't seem to hurt the girls at all.

Beyond doubt the practice is a bit childish but maybe that cannot be held against it for childish things have a wide appearance than adult ones. Millions of maidens pick their man of the year and some of them stay by their choice rather long periods some even spending a lifetime at it. Society would be disrupted if they picked a new one every twelvemonth although some do.

It will go on because of human ego and the advantages to be derived from tickling it.

SAME RACKET

A few years ago, comparatively whenever a get rich speculator wanted to cash in on some of his ideas he organized a company and sold stock to the common people who generally lost their money. Some of our first families got their big money from such stock speculations. Some of these speculations became famous, for instance the Mississippi Bubble and Ponzii, about which a lot has been written without explaining how it was possible for the few to fool the many so completely.

The government moved in to put a depressing hand on such stock sales and the legitimate stock sellers took steps to clean up the business with the result that one can buy stocks with reasonable safety—if cautious. But the dreamers of harebrained schemes had to have some outlet so they devised a good one. Now they sell their dreams to the government. It requires some political twingling but they are capable of that and besides they can put things over on the government they never could on the public, however gullible the public seemed in its ignorant heyday.

Can you imagine anyone putting out a stock issue on a plan to go to the moon? or to build a Skybolt missile to be shot from a plane with accuracy? or even to build housing for indigents who never had paid their rent?

No. No. The people know too much for such schemes. It is only the government—foolish enough to invest. But then it isn't the government's money, either and it's easy to invest other people's dough.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the undersigned administratrix of the estate of Chester Elton Medler, deceased, has filed in the County Court for Sherman County, State of Oregon, her final account in the administration of the above estate, and that Friday, the 18th day of January, 1963 has been set by the Court for the filing of objections, if any, to said account or the settlement of the above estate.

NAIDEEEN MEDLER Administratrix

John T. Lewis Attorney for Administratrix 502 U. S. Bank Bldg. The Dalles, Oregon

Dec. 20, 27, 1962 & Jan. 3, 10, 1963

WANT ADS

FOR SALE: 1 D4 Caterpillar Dozer-new; 1 John Deere small Grain Elevator-new; 2 John Deere Rotary Hoes-new; 1 Kelly Ryan side delivery Rake-used; 1 Semi-Trailer-used; 1 Ford Tractor Truck & Holt Semi Trailer-used; 2 Dempster Drills-used. O'MEARA SUPPLY & IMPLEMENT CO., Wasco, Ore. Phone GI 2-5402

FOR SALE: Walnuts JO 5-3678

8-11c

WINK-GOLDENDALE SALES Yrd, Goldendale, Wash has an auction every Friday at one o'clock We have the market if you have the livestock. Guaranteed top prices Frank Wink 80 BUD OREGON state approved nursing home located in beautiful Hood River Valley, with lovely fenced grounds. We accept all types of elderly cases, as well as room and board care.

CUSTOM SLAUGHTERING five days a week. Custom curing. Meat cutting, wrapping, ship freeze. Kenny's Market, Grass Valley Call ED 3-2345 for appointment. 23c

LIVESTOCK Men - Do it yourself - "Alcor Brand" Alim: various products, penicillin, and instruments are available at your Co-op Oil and Supply at The Dalles 20c t/n

L & E Paint Shop: Interior and exterior Decorating - Spray Painting ED 3-2273 Grass Valley. 42-t/n

FOR SALE OR RENT: 4 BR house in Grass Valley on three lots, fine chicken house, etc. Call Wasco, GI 2-5216. 7c-t/n

WANTED: a job bookkeeping or any kind of work. Also babysitting. Call JO 5-3293. 6c/n

FOR SALE OR TRADE: All or any part of Hill's Motel, Inc., Trailer Court, 9 City Bldgs lots, and fully equipped restaurant, ready to go. Write Box 236 Wasco, Oregon % Elmer L. Hill, Est. 5-8c

STATE WIDE PAINT CO. complete painting and decorating service, spray or brush. Phone CY 6-39 7 or CY 6-5255. 1205 E. 12th St. Vern Campbell and Jack Null. The Dalles, Ore. 1-63

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Frank D. Reid, W. M.

Vernon Root, Secretary

Euclid Lodge No. 123 A. F. & A. M

Meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month.

Visiting men, brethren cordially invited to meet with us

Bill Hall, W. M.

Irving Hart, Secretary

BARLANDVIEW GRANGE

Meets first and third Saturdays at 8:00 p. m.

Max Belisle, Master

Agnes Benson, Secretary

Lupine Rebekah Lodge No. 116

Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Visiting members welcome.

Clara Hockman, N. G.

Cleora Houston, Secretary

Rebekah Chapter No. 78 O.E.S.

Meets every second Thursday of each month. Visiting members invited. Moro, Ore

Linda Reed, W. M.

Dorothy Hester, Secretary

Moro LODGE No. 113 I.O.O.F.

Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in I.O.O.F. hall. Transient and visiting brothers cordially invited.

Floyd Haines, N. G.

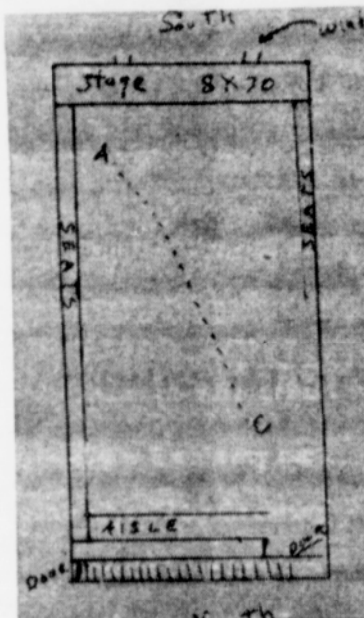
Leo Watkins, Secretary

Oregon's Worst Fire, the Silver Lake Catastrophe, Christmas Eve 1894 Remembered Often by Historians, Visitors at Monument

It was Christmas Eve in Silver Lake, Oregon, 1894. In the community meeting hall above Christmas dinner the ladies man brothers store the Christmas program behind a curtain of bed sheets drawn across the south end of the hall. Children were being bedecked as angels and men (one of them Warren Duncan) as the three wise men.

In the hall, decorated with green boughs and a Christmas tree and lighted by hanging lamps the crowd that had been sitting for over an hour was restless and George Payne, a young man of 18 stood up to move about a bit along the benches filled with women and children. Men were standing around the head of the stairs in the rear or north end of the 24 by 50 foot hall.

Payne's head hit one of the hanging lamps and as it swayed on its suspending wire oil spilled and caught fire causing the crowd to push away from the falling drops of fire and exclaim in excitement. Men shouted and cursed. Forgetful of the time and the occasion. Francis Chrisman took the lamp from its frame and started toward the door intending to take it down the stairs and cast it into the snow outside.



The plan of the hall where the Silver Lake fire burned 41 celebrants of the 1894 Christmas. A is approximately the spot where George Payne rose and upset the lamp and C is about the spot it was finally thrown to the floor

Others tried to help and some struck at the lamp in Chrisman's hands with their hats and others took off their coats to beat out the fire spots on the floor and on the lamp itself which resulted in the lamp being knocked from Chrisman's grasp to the floor. It was kicked and shoved toward the stairs leaving burning oil on the dry pine flooring and, burning still, it rolled down the stairs leaving new fires at every step.

Men were gathered at the head of the stairs and the screaming women and children could not get through. Everyone shouted directions and no one obeyed. Order of any kind would have been preferable to none at all. The Christmas decorations were soon ablaze and small children were being trampled amidst the toys and gifts they came to receive.

Warren Duncan broke out one of the windows in the wall behind the curtain. He stepped out onto the flimsy roof of the porch that had recently been erected to give shade to the entrance of the big Chrisman store and drew some women and children out. There was no ladder for them to climb down and they hesitated to jump so within minutes the porch fell, dropping them to the snow covered ground.

The men at the other end of the hall had to start down the burning stairs which were so crowded that progress was slow and the burning persons pushed and cried in their misery John Buick started down the stairs with his infant daughter in his arms and his son, Ed, seven, hold of his coat. Mrs. Buick and David, 4, started behind him. When he reached the ground his wife was not there and she and David perished along the stairs and in the crowd.

Burned to death were 41, making the Silver Lake fire the most destructive of life of any fire in Oregon's history. Dead were seven men, 15 women, 19 children. As of in some sort of retribution George Payne lay for weeks with his back so badly burned that the flesh fell off, exposing his backbone and ribs before he succumbed.

No one knows how many were in the hall but nearly a quarter of them must have burned to death, many so completely that nothing remained but white, brittle bones barely discernible in the ashes of the pine building. Within a few days these remains were gathered without attempt at identification and buried in five boxes in the little cemetery a half mile down the road. And later a huge stone was obtained by the community to mark the place, bearing

the names of those buried beneath it. Historians stop to recount the story of their death.

Silver Lake in 1894 was a prosperous stockraising community built on the north side of the lake which then contained water. Many productive ranches lay between Silver Lake and Fort Rock in the well watered valley that received the run-off from the surrounding hills and the East and Paulina lake range to the northwest. It had been settled by residents from Lane county in part and was the only trading post between Lakeview and Prineville. It had been established in 1888.

Dr. Thompson the local physician, had gone to Paisley to see a patient and word was sent to Dr. Bernard Daly at Lakeview who made a long, cold and tiresome ride through the snow to care for the injured. Neither doctor made a charge for his work.

There were no specifics for burns in 1894. All the stock of medicines had been burned, everything, in fact, except a barrel of coal oil that had been removed from the store to prevent an explosion and some whisky, which might have been useful as a physical and mental painkiller.

So many stories were sent out by letter and messenger that a group of citizens, W.J. Thomson, S.A.D. Porter, B.F. Lane, Ernest Carlen, Bert Gowdy, Ira Bradley, A. F. Miller, P.H. Williams, B.L. Snelling, Will D. West, and Chrisman Brothers wrote a story to the Lakeview Examiner that is a remarkably sane and accurate report of a community disaster.

It may be found in the records of the Oregon Historical Society. It recounts: "It was hardly more than two minutes from the time the lamp fell until the entire building was aflame. It is stated on authentic authority that at the first alarm someone shouted,

"Close the door", "keep quiet", "it can be put out" and that someone attempted to close the door. If this be true no doubt it caused many to remain that would probably have effected their escape. At the beginning of the conflagration everything was in a turmoil of excitement and commotion. Some calling loudly for loved ones that could not be found. Some were rushing hither and thither through the blinding heat of smoke and flames. Some knelt down and prayed while others, so overcome by the suddenness of the dangerous situation, fainted away and fell prostrate in the flames. When the last that were rescued escaped, there was not a sound or moan to be heard above the roar and crackling of the fire. The gas doubtless produced instant suffocation and the forty souls that so bravely perished in the fatal death trap met their death unconscious of their fate."

August B. Schroder, 29, testified before the grand jury saying: "George Payne in going to the door, struck his head against the lamp which threw out the oil into the burner. Someone turned the lamp down and Mr. Chrisman tried to take the lamp down and finally did so. I told him to drop it on the floor and let me throw my coat over it and I took my coat off. In the meantime someone struck it with the coat I think and knocked it out of his hands. Jeff Howard picked it up and started for the door with it and scattered the oil over the floor and side of the building as he swung around to get to the door which took fire immediately. The lamp was in the north end of the building. I turned around and I started back to where my wife and baby were, but was caught in the jam and shoved out doors. After I got down stairs Francis Chrisman came by and said for me to help him put up the hose on the pump. After we put the hose on Francis and I commenced pumping and Wm. Hough had hold of the nozzle throwing water on the flames as the people came out. Something went wrong with the hose and I left it and ran around to the front end of the building and called for a ladder. Mr. Marshall was coming across the street with one. Then I climbed to the window and called for my wife to come to me. I don't know how many came down the ladder. The water from the hose checked the fire from burning those coming down the stairway. I stayed on the ladder until those below called for me. "For God's sake, jump" I had hold of Roy Ward then Mr. Thompson had climbed up before that and got into the window with me and together we pulled Roy Ward out. He and Mr. Busick's daughter being the last ones saved."

Businessmen and citizens of Portland sent \$300 to Silver Lake to help the distressed and the money was gratefully received and



This is a big monument that stands in the Silver Lake cemetery along the highway near the town. On it are chiseled the names of the men, women and children who burned in the fire above Chrisman Brothers store. It is hard to take a picture that shows the names for the stone varies in coloring and part is always shaded, but there are the names of the pioneers of an early Oregon settlement that was almost destroyed.

spent for medicine and nursing costs for Silver Lake was almost entirely a hospital ward during the remainder of the winter. The severely burned gradually died many of them in hopeless misery.

Frank Buick wrote to his younger brother then living in Roseburg with his grandmother: "George Payne is dead. Clara Snelling is awful bad. All of her fingers will have to come off at the wrist, some think she will die. Her eye winks have come off. They think Mrs. LaBee (Laurie) will not live."

Despite such things the citizens of Silver Lake sent word back to Portland January 29 that they had had enough of charity and could get along which prompted Harvey Scott, editor of the Weekly Oregonian to write in an editorial on February 8: "The money was accepted gratefully but with unmistakable evidence of regret that anyone should have thought Silver Lake an object of charity, and with a plain intimation that no more was needed; that the surviving citizens are both able and willing to supply all the material wants of their stricken townmen and think it their highest privilege to do so."

"This is the spirit that makes good citizens, sound local communities and vigorous states. The simple and matter-of-fact way in which these people declare their independence of charity and their determined self-reliance is most welcome evidence of the soundness of principle and conviction of individual responsibility in the country. The contagion of Coxey armies and urban soup kitchens has not reached the rural districts. The country may be captivated by some of the speculative fads of populism, but it has no appetite for the modern notion that the individual citizen should do nothing for himself; that everything should be done for him"

enables the family to limit the cost to its needs or wishes.

Spencer & Libby Funeral Home PHONE 3234 1600 KELLY AVE.

WASHINGTON AND "SMALL BUSINESS" By C. WILSON HARDER

There is more than just rumor to the announcement that early next year the foreign give away program, slashed quite a bit in the 87th Congress, will be further assailed.

In fact, it would not be surprising to see all branches of government join in a drive to knock out the global free hand outs which have cost the U. S. taxpayers somewhere around \$100 million that can be accounted for. C. W. Harder and no one knows how much that cannot be accounted for.

How united a drive this will develop into depends largely on what face saving stratagems can be dreamed up, and also how fast the news of foreign aid scandals keeps rolling in.

The General Accounting Office made a deep impression on the Congress just ended when it stated without equivocation that the \$1.2 billion dollars given to Korea in a five year period that ended in 1961 not only failed to accomplish any good, they actually harmed the Korean economy.

The GAO said that such stupendous sums poured into the tiny country stopped private initiative and created all kinds of graft such as collusion between supplier and importer, shipments of defective merchandise, kickbacks and overpricing. Some of this, the GAO said, was lessened to a degree in 1962 because the Korean give away program was substantially cut. In other words, the report indicated, there was



C. W. Harder

less graft when there were less U.S. dollars to graft with.

Of course, the State Department has been in the forefront for over 20 years to get more and more money to give away.

The State Dept. seemed to come a cropper in one of their tub thumpings for more foreign give away funds when it released a story to Indiana papers that in the past eight years \$21,000,000 had been spent in Indiana because of foreign aid activities.

Rep. Richard Roudebuch went to the record and found not one cent had been spent in the ten Indiana counties comprising his district; in fact the Library of Congress furnished him figures showing that the residents of his ten counties had been taxed almost \$157 million to pay for foreign give aways.

It seems more and more apparent that eventually there will be a Congressional showdown with the State Dept. because for some reason this branch seems to have under its wing the biggest collection of crackpots in government.

For example, the Ambassador to India, John Galbraith, long a wheel in the State Dept. is on record as attacking advertising, not on a basis of good taste, but because it encourages people to spend the money they earn on new cars, homes, refrigerators, et al. His idea is that the people would be much better off if government took their money to spend on public works. This from a man supposed to be discouraging the spread of communism. Seeing Khrushchev in church every Sunday could not be any more startling.

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