

**SHERMAN COUNTY OBSERVER**  
Moro, Oregon

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C. L. IRELAND  
Editor and Publisher

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Mr. Richard Hughes has written a play especially for the radio. Faced with the apparently insuperable difficulty of necessary invisibility of his actors, this ingenious dramatist hit upon the notion of placing his scene in the pitch blackness of a cave-in coal mine. Listeners in received instruction to turn out the lights in their rooms, in order to create the atmosphere of a coal mine—one would think a little more might be required—and were further warned that if they thought the tragedy would be too dreadful for them, they had better not listen in. The whole of the mining accident was sent through the air, with crashing and cursing—alas, there was no praying—the rush of icy waters, and the final sound of the picks as the rescue party approached. The whole cast consisted of one resourceful individual plus the book of the play and a choice assortment of noise-making implements, says the Living Age. As an English paper observes: "It seems as though a new member had been found for the club of queer trades, namely, the playwright whose chief characters are 'noises of.'"

The importance of radio in the production and marketing of agricultural products is brought out in a special survey of about 1,200 representative farmers, just completed by the United States Department of Agriculture. More than 50 per cent of the 1,200 farmers replying reported that they owned tube sets employing three or more tubes, while approximately 50 per cent of the farmers reported having homemade sets ranging from simple crystal detectors to tube sets.

Farm products are often shipped great distances when they might be sold with greater profit close at hand, says the United States Department of Agriculture. Surveys are now being made by the department in various parts of the country to determine the extent of this wasteful practice and to help farmers make readjustments in their farming and marketing to enable them to meet local market demands.

**BILL BARBER SAYS**

MONEY HAS WINGS BUT IT IS NOT A HOMING PIGEON.

**Spring Wheat Varieties Tested as Best Adapted to Eastern Oregon**

Hundreds of varieties of spring grains have been tried on the eastern Oregon branch stations in an attempt to find a more productive and better quality variety for this section. During the early years baart proved to be the leading wheat in the trials at Moro and at Burns. Baart still continues to lead as a dry land wheat at Burns but at Moro, hard federation and federation, two new Australian wheats, have out yielded all other varieties. Under irrigation at Burns and also under sub-irrigated conditions at Union the federation has proved the highest yielding spring variety.

In Oregon station bulletin No. 204 is given a description of the federation wheats, and a summary of the truly remarkable results with them at the branch stations and by farmers in eastern Oregon. These varieties are spring wheats and are not recommended for fall planting. Milling and baking results show that these two new wheats are superior to baart or bluestem for bread making. They are rapidly replacing all other spring varieties in most counties of eastern Oregon, because they have proved superior in actual farm tests as well as in extensive experiment station trials. The introduction of these two wheats will increase acre yields of spring wheat at least four bushels an acre in eastern Oregon. As soon as all inferior varieties have been supplanted by the federation wheats, this will mean at least an extra 700,000 bushels of wheat annually for the farmers of eastern Oregon with practically no added cost of production.

Officers of the French colonial service have discovered a tribe in the Sahara desert in which the women have completely subjugated their husbands and strut around the camps with clubs in their hands. The Amazons are known as Kenour and are a husky breed, who wear great baggy trousers. According to the amazed Frenchmen, the women applied their clubs very freely when the husbands showed the slightest hesitation of carrying out their orders. The ladies from time to time stage free-for-all fights and refuse to eat with their husbands. The great question is now: Are the Kenour tribes leading the way in the development of the family and must we ultimately face a similar situation in other lands? Here is a mighty weapon for the opponents of woman suffrage.

The noiseless airplane has become a reality, but the noiseless piano remains a dream, and like the noiseless automobile—and saxophone.

In the future, if one's photograph is transmitted by this telephone device and comes out looking like a cartoon, is one entitled to blame it on static?

As soon as scientists learn to harness the atom every man should be able to drive his own.

The cost of living isn't quite so high as formerly, but when it falls, it is always "to rise again."

**ALONG LIFE'S TRAIL**

By THOMAS A. CLARK  
Dean of Men, University of Illinois.  
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**SELF-ENTERTAINMENT**

FRANK MARSHAL lives in the village near which I was born. He was a farmer until he was forty-five—a prosperous farmer whose land had been left him by his father. He had never really worked hard. He had gone to the district school until he was fourteen and his father had even sent him to a boys' academy for a time and had offered to put him through college, but he was not fond of study, he saw nothing very practical in books or in education, and he came back home at the end of his first year at the academy and announced that he was through. He went to work on the farm, and a few years later, his father having died, he inherited it and took charge of it.

He developed no interest outside of the routine work in which he was engaged. He had no avocations, no hobbies, no recreations. He never read a book so far as I know; he had no interest in newspapers excepting in the one or two technical agricultural papers which his father had subscribed for and which he paid for each year in an uninterested way. He had no interest in music; he could not play a game; the details of travel confused him and got on his nerves. He was totally without resources for self-entertainment. It had never occurred to him when he was young that old age would one day catch up with him and separate him from his old occupation, and if he were then to be happy there must be something within him to form a basis of that happiness.

He moved to town when he was forty-five and gave up work. He sits by the radiator in winter and on the porch in summer, restless and discontented. His chief interest is tending the furnace in winter and mowing the lawn in summer. He has four times as much money as he can spend, but he's wretchedly unhappy because he has never learned to enjoy himself. One of the happiest persons I ever knew was an old lady, blind and bedridden. She had read widely and this reading had taken her into fields of poetry and romance, and into every foreign country on the globe. As she lay in bed her mind was filled with beautiful memories; her imagination carried her far away from the scene of her misfortune. She repeated to herself the beautiful things she had committed to memory; she sat with the people she had met in history and biography and fiction. No one who visited her was ever impressed with the fact that she was helpless and blind, for her mind was full of things for her own entertainment.

**Moro Picture Show Business and Equipment Changes Ownership**

The movie picture machine and equipment, including chairs, etc., of the Moro opera house has been sold to Harry Beasley of Grass Valley who has taken a lease of the building and in future will have entire control of all features of entertainment given in the building. Mr. Beasley has been employed by the Standard Oil company at Grass Valley. He has had control of the theatres at Wasco and Grass Valley for several weeks and, with this deal, he now has entire control of the picture business for the three towns in this county. Mr. Beasley will assume charge of the theatre business at this place beginning on Saturday, August 16th.

The name Spain Main was popularly given by English voyagers, during the Sixteenth and Seventeenth centuries, to the north coast of South America, between the Orinoco river and the Isthmus of Darien, and also to the Spanish provinces of Central America bordering on the Caribbean sea. The expression "Spanish Main" is also used to denote the Caribbean sea itself, especially in connection with the buccaneers who infested those waters.

**Protest on Change in Postal Service Continues Railway Schedule**

A proposed change in the schedule of the O. W. R. & N. company, Shaniko branch, which would eliminate a daily service to Shaniko and way points and institute a schedule of three times weekly, was not made, it was learned, after Congressman N. J. Sinnott had telegraphed a protest to the postal department at Washington. Before the answer to the protest had been received, the railroad company decided to not change the schedule, which would put trains over the Shaniko branch, between Grass Valley and Shaniko, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, discontinuing the daily service. Congressman Sinnott was waited upon by a delegation of citizens from Antelope, who framed the protest, saying that 1,500 persons would be without train service four days a week. Mr. Sinnott was asked to place the problem before the postal authorities, as this train carries mail to Shaniko, Antelope, Kent and other towns along the line.

**Sherman Second Oregon County in Production of Cereal Crops**

According to Oregon experiment station bulletin No. 204, entitled Spring Crops for Eastern Oregon, the average acre value based on pre-war prices—1906-1914—and the average acre yields of the grain crops in Sherman county for the years 1919 to 1923, inclusive, were as follows:

	Acreage	Production in bushels	Acre yields—bushels	—pounds	—Acre value
Winter wheat	116,247	2,680,475	23.2	1392	\$18.56
Spring wheat	9,465	142,372	15.2	912	12.16
Oats	1,192	26,070	21.6	691	9.50
Barley	3,196	74,734	23.6	1133	13.69

Based on 5-year average yields, Sherman county was the second highest wheat producing county in Oregon, the average production of both spring and winter wheat being 2,822,847 bushels.

In yield per acre Sherman county ranked twelfth for all counties of the state, being exceeded in average yield by the eastern Oregon counties of Umatilla, Malheur and Wasco, and by several Willamette valley counties. Sherman county ranked eleventh in the production of barley with an average 5-year production of 74,734 bushels. Most other eastern counties outranked Sherman in total barley production and many of them in average acre yield.

Like most eastern Oregon counties, Sherman county raises very little oats. The average 5-year production for the county was only 26,070 bushels and the average acre yield 21.6 bushels.

In value per acre, winter wheat ranked first, being \$4.87 more than barley, which was the second highest cereal in acre value. Information about varieties of spring crops including wheat, barley, oats, corn, potatoes and flax and cultural methods for eastern Oregon conditions, is given in station bulletin No. 204, copies of which can be obtained free by writing to either of the branch experiment stations at Moro, Union, or Burns or to the main station at Corvallis.

**C. H. Belshee**

Funeral services under direction of Zell Funeral Home, was held from the Presbyterian church in this city last Sunday afternoon in memory of Charles H. Belshee who died at his home in Hermiston the previous Wednesday from a shotgun wound near the heart received while hunting rats in his yard. We are informed that, at the time of his accident, he was holding his gun in his left hand and trying to raise a board from off the walk around his house under which a rat he had wounded had ran. In lifting the board, his left hand discharged the gun, causing his death about two hours later. The funeral service was conducted by Rev. Henry G. Hanson, pastor of the Presbyterian church, who made a special trip from Portland to be present. Interment was in the I. O. F. cemetery.

Chas. H. Belshee was born March 26th, 1850, at Warsaw, Illinois. He was married to Mary D. Sink on March 17th, 1870. To this union was born nine children. They moved to Sherman county, settling in Grass Valley canyon north of this place, in 1883. They moved to California in 1900 where they remained until 1917 at which time they moved to Hermiston. He united with the Presbyterian church at Monkland, this county, in 1883.

Mr. Belshee died on Wednesday, July 30, 1924. He is survived by his widow, six daughters, one son, eighteen grand children, eight great grand children, and one brother: Mrs. Warren Myers, Oakland, California; Mrs. Maud Collins, Chico, California; Mrs. W. H. Ragsdale, Moro, Oregon; Mrs. G. S. Vaughn, Berkeley, California; Mrs. C. J. Thorp, Sacramento, California; Mrs. J. L. Smith, Lemon Cove, California; G. B. Belshee, Los Angeles, California; Frank J. Belshee, Moro, Oregon.

**An Unusual Ohio Cricket.**  
The jumping bush cricket (Orthocentrus saltator) is found in small numbers throughout the southern half of Ohio, frequenting the undergrowth of dense woods, the thickets along the borders of streams and the shrubbery of orchards and yards.

**One Farmer Who Wants to Stay Poor for Four More Lean Years**

A Wheeler county farmer, who says he is a democrat, has written to LaFollette headquarters at Portland pledging his support in the campaign. The Wheeler county man says he does not know of one voter in his section that will support Davis, the democratic nominee, and that the condition of farmers generally will, in his opinion, not be conducive to support of his former party's candidates. He says the farmers in his county are "so poor they have to lean against sage brush for support." How any voter, interested in farmer finances, can support LaFollette is past comprehension. LaFollette stands for increased wages and better conditions for the highly unionized labor of the United States, as a class, and for government ownership of railroads. Both these conditions will only be arrived at by an added burden for the farmer to carry through increased railroad freight rates and lower prices for what the farmer, as a class, has to sell.

The entire closing to campers, visitors and tourists of the national forest reserve in and around Badger lake and creek has been announced by the national forest service. This region, as well as others in the state, has been designated as areas of extreme fire hazard and has been made necessary by the fact that much of the worst part of the forest fire season is yet to come.

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