

## C. C. CLARK TELLS OF JOHN DAY MESS

(Arlington Bulletin)

Portland, Oregon, February 27, 1926.  
George Huntington Curry, Arlington, Friend Curry:

In our last talk before I left Arlington we took up the matter of the John Day Irrigation District. As we hurried over it, it was impossible to give you anything definite, as to the present situation and the steps that have led up to it. I will not, however, take time to give you the dates of the different events which comprise the petitioning and forming of the John Day Irrigation District.

Nor will I say that it was a good policy that two farmers were chosen on the board of directors to act for the taxpayers of the district in forming the district, but, however, that was the case. The board was composed of M. D. Clark, Edward Rietmann, and C. C. Clark; M. D. Clark being one of the prominent merchants of Heppner, Morrow County, Oregon. The board of directors had no other guidance in their work except the District Irrigation Laws and the best attorneys in the State of Oregon as their advisers and in all their transactions they had in mind the interest of the taxpayers within the district. In due course of time the district was formed and the necessary resolutions passed by the Board of Directors to enable them to levy a tax for the preliminary survey of the district. The board was accused, first, of not having their minutes of each and every meeting given to the press and they met regularly according to the irrigation statute of the state.

The asking of a blanket assessment on all of the land within the district in order to raise funds for the expense of the preliminary survey, was published according to law and, up until the time that the present board of directors took over the management of the district, the taxpayers were fully protected by a bond from the engineer in charge of the survey. This brings us up until the time that certain land owners within the district brought suit against the board of directors and the district. At the time of bringing this suit, the old board was accused, first, of not having the ability to conduct a district of the magnitude of the John Day Irrigation District, also that some of their acts did not conform with the irrigation district laws of the state.

The new board who should, if they did not, have taken an oath to comply with the irrigation laws have utterly failed in many respects to comply with the irrigation laws. They have failed to call elections as required. They have given out no reports of their acts or made any statement of why they have spent over \$52,000 of the taxpayers' money. They have not had the books of the district audited annually. They have made no move to permit the district to function for the purposes for which it was created. In making an agreement with the engineer, they have paid him \$11,000.00, but left him in possession of all data, surveys and information. The original levy was authorized for the purpose of securing a preliminary survey and while the present board has spent thousands of dollars for attorneys' fees, they refused to authorize the engineer to make a report of his work at a cost of a few thousand dollars, leaving him in possession of all the data and surveys worth at least \$50,000.00. They ordered the county not to collect the levy, yet that levy was legally made and remains a lien on the lands of the district.

Some land owners have paid their assessment and unless the directors can show good faith in spending that money for the declared purpose have the land owners not a right to enjoin

the payment of all warrants issued for the purpose of dissolving or discrediting the district?

One of their claims in bringing suit was to save the tax payers within the district any needless expense on the ground that the old board had overstepped in interpreting the law in this respect. In the complaints against the old board it was claimed by the new board that many thousands of dollars had been spent by the old board but the fact of the case is that the new board is spending money more recklessly than the old board ever had any idea of spending—in fact as near as I can figure out by what data I have been able to get hold of, they have spent more money trying to keep from paying the just debts of the district than the district owed in the first place.

I find many warrants being drawn payable to large land owners within the district who openly were fighting the district. We find large attorneys' fees being paid attorneys whose only excuse for accepting the fee was an effort to keep the district from paying a just claim to the attorneys that had assisted the district. Taking these fees as a base, we are willing to leave the fair minded people of the district to decide for themselves who have been the most extravagant with the taxpayers' money, the old board or the new board.

I further wish to call the public's attention to some of the warrants that are being drawn that the poor taxpayer will have to pay.

On June the 10th, 1925, N. P. Ry. Co., \$3051.52. Total attorneys' fees warrants issued in last year, \$17,893.15. (No taxpayer in the district knows how many more warrants may be issued.)

The John Day Irrigation District was formed under the irrigation laws of the State of Oregon which, taken in connection with the Federal Law known as the "Smith Bill" made the government land included within the district subject to its pro rata cost for survey and other incidental expenses in the formation of the district, and, if the engineering estimates had been carried out and accepted by the national government, the vacant land within the district would have shared the expense pro rata per acre with the taxpayers within the district and it looks to me that, if there is any settlement made whereby the district is killed, the only thing for the private land owner is to pay the whole bill, while if the free issuance of warrants goes on as it has in the past year, the Northern Pacific Railway Company, and associates, will receive warrants nearly equal to the assessment against their acreage within the district and the small taxpayer

will have to pay almost all of the legitimate expense of the district.

Very truly yours,  
C. C. CLARK.

### ALPINE

(Contributed by Alpine High School.)

The students of the Alpine high school are busy rehearsing the play "Bashful Mr. Bobbs" to be given at the high school March 13.

The Farm Bureau had its monthly meeting March 6. A large crowd and a good time were reported.

J. W. Sibley has rented a place south of Heppner where he and his family will move March 7. Alfred Sibley is moving into the little cabin on the school grounds where he will try batching until school is out.

Mrs. B. P. Doherty and son Bernard drove to Portland for a few days' visit last week.

There will be a pie social at the April Farm Bureau meeting.

Mrs. Ralph Finley and sister, Miss Pearl Parks, returned to their home last Thursday evening after a few days' visit at Hermiston.

Margaret Melville and Bernice Seppanek were absent from school part of last week on account of illness.

Mrs. Dee Cox and family are visit-

ing at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Morey.

### IRRIGON

(Too late for last week.)

Mrs. Roscoe Williams left Sunday for a visit with the home folks at Mabton, Wash.

Wayne Steward, employed in Portland, spent the week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Steward.

The Grange social on Saturday night was a huge success. Although the attendance was not 100% those present had a merry time. Mrs. Walt Wright won all prizes on fancy old-time dancing.

Frank Moore, owner of station KOWW of Walla Walla, called on W. R. Walpole Sunday. He welcomes constructive criticism of programs broadcast from his station from the radio friends of this fair city.

Frank D. Strader is sporting a new Essex coach purchased from Seaman's garage.

W. A. Chaney and wife made a trip to Prescott, Wash., Saturday.

Prof. George Hendricks has returned to our city after a five-weeks stay in Portland where he conducted a forty-piece orchestra during part of his stay in the metropolis.

Mrs. Bonnie Grim has resigned her

position as teacher of the school at Cecil, and is staying for the time being with the C. C. Grims.

For some time a number of the good people of the community have been suffering from flu, but at this writing all are on the road to recovery. The whooping coughers are also on the mend.

The school invested \$25 this week in baseball goods. Now watch Home-run Seaman, Never-Muff-Em Allen and "Casey" Jones.

Mrs. Nester Seaman, accompanied

by son Lyle and daughter Freda, Bishop "Spot" Wisdom and Jesse Wadsworth, drove to Portland Sunday.

**EXTRA SPECIAL!** I have contracted for a limited amount of No. 1 Inspected Netted Gem Seed Potatoes. I will be able to sell these at 4c per pound f. o. b. the store. Phone or write your order as they are going fast at this low price.

Cash and Carry Grocery.

**WANTED**—Bids for plowing and harrowing 225 acres, 17 miles south

of Ione. Or would hire teams and plows. Address Chas. M. Wagner, 485½ Jefferson St., Portland, Ore.

**FOR SALE**—Or will trade for Portland property, 402 acres in Blue mountains, known as South Jones Prairie. Margaret Jones, 777 Sandy Blvd., Portland, Ore.

**Wanted**—Competent girl for housework. Apply Mrs. W. H. Cleveland, Heppner.

# Ford

## Two Per Cent Reduction in Tax Effective Now

We will absorb immediately on all Ford Cars the two per cent reduction in tax which normally does not become effective until midnight, March 28th. This means that you can have immediate delivery of a new Ford Car and take advantage of the 2% Tax Reduction.

Latourell Auto Co.  
Heppner, Oregon



## The FLORSHEIM SHOE

Two men sign two promissory notes. One is worth one hundred cents on the dollar. The other note is worthless. The same with two shoes. The Florsheim crest is a promise of quality that is backed up by years of integrity.

Wilson's

A MAN'S STORE FOR MEN

## Star Theater

THURSDAY and FRIDAY, March 11 & 12:

Tom Mix and Lucy Fox in "TEETH"

WITH TONY THE HORSE AND DUKE THE DOG.  
A red-blooded drama of the West. Battles, a real forest fire, excitement, thrills, suspense.

Also Billy Sullivan in "LOSER WINS," a typical "fighting cowboy" story, and fourth episode of "THE FAST EXPRESS"

SATURDAY, MARCH 13:

GLENN TYRON and BLANCHE MEHAFFY in  
"THE BATTLING ORIOLES"

ASSISTED BY "OUR GANG"  
A Joyous Romance of Irrepressible Youth—with a dash of Aud Lang Syne. Here's Novelty and Laughter and Delightful Entertainment. A real Gloom Buster.

**CAST:**  
Nine Heroes—Combined age 653 years young!  
One Assistant Hero—Old enough to be in love.  
One Gazelle—Just old enough to be loved.

The Gazelle is in trouble—The Assistant Hero needs help—and the nine heroes, who creak like wooden bedsteads, wheeze like second hand autos and are only two leaps ahead of the gentleman with the long whiskers and the sythe regain their girlish laughter, and

**RESULT:**  
The fastest, funniest fight that ever gave an audience hysterics. Also "LUNACY," one of the Stereoscopic series, in which the nearby objects stand right out in front of you when viewed through the colored spectacles.

This show is worth twice what you have to pay to see it.

REGULAR PRICES, 25c and 35c.

SUNDAY and MONDAY, March 14 and 15

CHARLIE CHAPLIN in  
"THE GOLD RUSH"

A DRAMATIC COMEDY.  
A real love story, tenderly sweet, strangely pathetic, yet full of funny angles, threads through this GREAT COMEDY, that hits a new note and turns tragedy into laughter. Charlie Chaplin was never funnier, his antics more laughable.

A MASTERPIECE!  
Also "PAUL REVERE," one of the Hysterical History series. CHILDREN 35c, ADULTS 50c.

TUES. AND WEDS., MARCH 16 and 17:

THE MEMPHIS MINSTRELS

14 PEOPLE.  
WATCH FOR LATER ANNOUNCEMENT.

NEXT WEEK—Robert Agnew in "OLD FEELS," a race track story. Capt. Nungesser in "THE SKY RAIDER."  
Len Chaney in "THE UNHOLY THREE."  
Florence Vidor in "BARBARA FREITHEIM."

Every picture advertised here is a good one, well worth the money charged, and you are cheating yourself if you don't see every one of them.

Now is the time to  
order your

## COAL

for your winter  
needs

TUM-A-LUM  
LUMBER CO.

Heppner, Lexington, Ione

### TO OUR CREAM CUSTOMERS:

We can only make the grade of butter from the grade of cream we receive. Now, if we are going ahead and be on the map like other surviving creameries, we must have A-grade cream. We are not churning any B-grade cream. We will pay market price for A-grade cream.

Morrow County Creamery Co.  
W. C. COX, Manager.

## Service and the Small Account

This bank is a service institution organized to meet financial necessities of its depositors. The amount of its service to its depositors often depends on the bank balances they maintain.

This bank must carefully protect the funds deposited here by its depositors. Money can be loaned only when we feel sure that it will be safe. When a depositor maintains a reasonably large, steady balance, it is an indication to us that he knows how to use money successfully. It gives us a reason to believe that loans to him will be safe. That is one reason why depositors who maintain large balances get better service from their bank. They are entitled to it.

And even more than that, a large balance provides the depositor with sufficient funds to take care of emergencies and business opportunities that may arise.

Farmers & Stockgrowers National  
Heppner Bank Oregon

## What Is Wrong with these Plows?

We know there is nothing wrong with our prices!

OLIVER 3-bottom 16 in. gang cash price - - - - \$110

OLIVER 2-way 16 in. gang cash price - - - - \$90

P & O 2-way 16 in. steel cash price - - - - \$90

We want to sell these plows. Come in and look them over.

We also have a store full of good, salable merchandise, paints, kalsomine, brushes, household utensils, dishes, ranges, stoves, etc., open for your inspection with the prices on them in large tags. We are not ashamed to show our prices.

**WATCH THE FRONT PAGE!! FOR CASE COMBINE NEWS!!**

**Peoples Hdw. Co.**

Agents for J. I. Case and John Deere