

EDITORIAL

Do You Know Your County?

What do you know about your county? Could you state offhand what the area is in square miles or total number of acres? Do you know the approximate population, how many of us are native born whites?

These and other interesting data relative to Morrow county are contained in Oregon Business Review, published at the University of Oregon. Finding a keen personal interest in the findings of the school relative to this county, President B. C. Pinckney read the resume to the chamber of commerce luncheon group. It is worth passing on to the several thousand readers of this newspaper.

The county's area is 2,059 square miles, or 1,317,760 acres. 1944 population based on OPA figures, 4,031 in 1944; 4,337 in 1940; 4,941 in 1930, and 5,617 in 1920. Percent native born white, 94.8; percent between 15 and 65, 67.2; percent living in rural areas, 54.0; median school year completed by persons 25 years or older, male 8.5, female 10.1.

Employment based on 1940 census: Labor force (number of persons normally employed) 1,792; percent of men over 14 included in labor force, 82.0; percent of women over 14 included in labor force, 16.6. Agriculture is the principal industry in which the labor force is employed, accounting for 993. Retail trade other than drinking, eating and motor-vehicle service, 119; construction 76.

Number of farms, 540. Average size of farms, acres, 1,793.3. Average value of farms (land and buildings) \$14,671. Percent of county in farms, 73.5; percent of tenancy, 21.7.

average number of persons per occupied dwelling, Number of dwelling units in county, 1,421; av-3.49; percent of dwellings occupied by owners, 56.9.

Manufacturing establishments in 1940 totaled eight, the value of their products reaching \$149,264 and the value added by manufacture, \$79,301.

In 1939, (latest-available figures) there were 81 retail establishments with annual sales of \$1,220,000, and seven wholesale establishments with annual sales of \$266,000.

It might be added that since 1940 farm values have increased to some extent due to heavier yields of grain. Likewise there has been greater activity in lumber production, which would have a tendency to increase the number of people employed in manufacture. As to the population figure there is no reason to find any difference with the 1944 estimate as the OPA count is as nearly accurate as anything during this wartime uncertainty.

Criticism Not Justified

There has been some criticism—political, of course—of Wayne Morse for driving his car to Washington, pulling a trailer containing his prize horses. It has been intimated that "people are shaking their heads over this uncalled-for use of gasoline," and that had it happened before election the results might have been different. They might, but it is doubtful. Had it been necessary for Mr. Morse to use the gas prior to election he doubtless would have done so. So far as is known he has not been guilty at any time of violating the OPA gas restrictions.

If it is wrong for Mr. Morse to use gasoline to

move to Washington it is wrong for any other citizen to apply for gasoline for the purpose of moving. It so happens that he is the duly elected representative of the people and that his new place of business is across the continent from Oregon. To serve in his capacity as United States senator it was necessary for him to give up his residence at Eugene and move his family to the national capital. It has been done by others placed in the same position since the country entered the war—and many times before.

In using his trailer to haul his horses he was not using space badly needed for the transportation of munitions and implements of war. By taking one of his children with him two seats were spared for the use of service men, if some other important civilians didn't crowd in.

If we wished to stoop to throwing political mud we could recite numerous cases that really call for criticism of people making unnecessary trips for the sake of cashing in on political favor. But our wish is merely to point out the inconsistency of trying to make political capital out of a matter that is of no concern to anyone except Mr. Morse and the OPA.

Has Climate Changed?

What a break for country journalists when the restrictions on weather discussion was removed! It was painful to go week in and week out passing up the great subject about which so much is said and about which nothing is done. So now, with that handicap on the freedom of the press removed, editors again may expand their theories anent the weather.

About the only comment in mind at this time is the observation that the most certain thing about the weather is the state of its uncertainty. Following that statement it may be added that virtually all efforts of ye editor to predict the weather have proven false (although we did state in the issue prior to Christmas that prospects for a white Christmas were poor and the weather man came forth with something closely resembling a tattle-tale gray covering which lasted a few days) consequently what is about to be set forth is on the word of another and if contrary measures are resorted to by Mother Nature the blame will not rest on our shoulders.

Weather travels in cycles. There will be a period of mild years seasoned with more than the normal amount of rainfall. This cycle runs its course and perhaps there will be an era of drouth with cold, frosty winters and little snow, and this finally brings us to what has commonly been looked upon as a normal condition with big snows in the winter and a fair amount of rain during the rest of the year. Apparently we are in a mild season era minus the unusual amount of rain, although for two or three years the moisture was plentiful. tion that this country won't see snow in any vol-Snow has been lacking for several seasons and this fact led a local citizen to make the observation for several years—maybe. When asked if the country will dry up he replied that there will be plenty of rain. We therefore rest the burden of prophecy with him, relieving ourselves of the obligation to keep the public informed about the weather.

MORROW COUNTY POMONA

By Mrs. Mary Lundell

Morrow county Pomona grange met Jan. 6 at Boardman with a large delegation representing all sections of the county.

Business proceedings of interest to the county at large, were the passing of several resolutions:

1 Regarding R. E. A. and P. U. D. setups and operating costs, which will be released at an early date and will appear in this paper.

2 Opposing compulsory pasteurization of milk due to lack of information on the subject. (It seems that but a few machines are suitably equipped with thermometers for satisfactory results.)

3 Extending gratitude and thanks to County Court for their effort in maintaining and directing proper traffic weight for driving on light

surfaced market roads in the county.

4 Pertaining to the election of county agents by popular ballot instead of the present system of appointment met with a 25 to 4 defeat.

5 A rising vote of thanks to Greenfield grange for their splendid hospitality.

The resignation of Marjorie Baker as secretary was accepted. Mary Lundell was elected as secretary leaving a vacancy of acting lecturer which was filled by the appointment of Vida Heliker. O. L. Lundell was elected as a member of the executive committee to fill the vacancy made by W. A. Baker leaving the county. Other members of the committee are Mrs. Lucy Rodgers and E. M. Baker.

Interesting personalities attend-

ing the session included Bertha J. Beck of Portland, secretary of the Oregon State grange; assistant state lecturer, Mrs. Ruckman, Summerville in Union county, Mr. Ruckman, master of Pleasant Grove grange and Dr. Taylor, district assistant veterinary from The Dalles. All had messages of interest during the program. County Agent Arnold Ebert outlined his work and expressed a desire to cooperate in every way possible.

The program was completed with vocal solos duets, readings and recreational numbers.

The 5th degree was exemplified to a class of 10 by the Greenfield team.

The next Pomona will meet with Rhea Creek grange on April 9.

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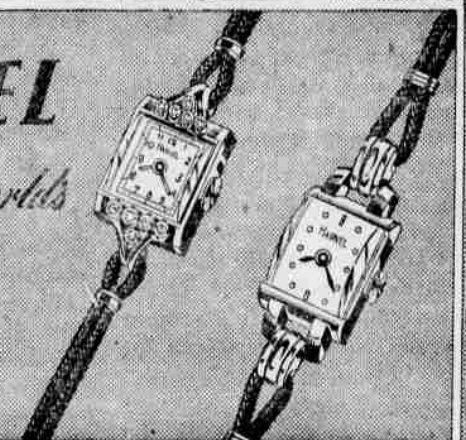
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Meets First Monday Each Month
Citizens having matters for discussion, please bring before the Council.
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