

The Hermiston Herald

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MEET TONIGHT TO DISCUSS CONTRACT WITH GOVERNMENT

A meeting of vital importance to every water user on the project will be held tonight, Friday, February 18th in the Baptist church, and a request is made, that all those interested be on hand to hear the discussions about the contract the Hermiston Irrigation District and the Water Users Association will vote on this month.

The meeting has been called by a representative number of water users for the purpose of understanding the meaning of the contract.

The contracts sent out to the water users last week, were not all legible, and some have been unable to understand all the features of it, and for this reason, it was thought to be a good plan to have a mass meeting where all would congregate and hear the different parts explained by those who drew the contract up.

To all water users who do not understand all there is to understand about this contract, we urge your attendance at this meeting. If you will protect your interests and those of your neighbors, you will not allow this meeting to pass by without your attendance.

The meeting will be called to order at 8:00 o'clock p. m. sharp.

New Books at the Library

Twenty-five new books of fiction have been received at the Library and a box of 50 more is on the way from the State Librarian at Salem. Within the past few months the circulation of the Hermiston Library has passed that of every other library in the county except Pendleton, Weston having held second place until now.

Everybody should help keep the Hermiston library in the place it has now in the county. If you haven't a card, get one from the Librarian, by doing so, you will help the Library and yourself.

Cow Will Market Alfalfa

Alfalfa growers who find no market for their surplus hay may again try the dairy cow as the most promising channel. A good cow will turn one ton of alfalfa into 60 to 75 lbs. butterfat, with a by-product of 1000 pounds of skim milk, which is excellent feed for calves, pigs and poultry, says E. B. Pitts, dairy extension specialist at O. A. C. Many growers had turned to the dairy cow before the war as the best permanent market channel for hay, but sold off their herds when hay prices soared and labor was so scarce. Professor Pitts thinks they might well consider now getting back into the dairy game, thereby building a permanent market for hay, saving handling and shipping cost, removing only a concentrated product for the farm, and receiving monthly liberal pay checks.

Eastern Star Dance

The Eastern Star chapter of Umatilla will give a big dance at Pound's hall in Umatilla on Tuesday, February 22nd. A large crowd of people from Hermiston are planning to attend.

Who Will Pay For This Feed?

The Commercial Clubs of Boardman and Hermiston each have a tree-planting committee. The two committees have engaged in a tree-planting race, and the loser must give an exquisite banquet to the winner.

The idea is to stimulate planting of trees and shrubbery and beautifying the home grounds and highways.

The committee planting the most trees per acre irrigated, wins. The race will end next November.

The two communities are asked to get behind their committee and help win the race.

New Cement Walk

F. A. Chesik is having a new cement walk put down in front of his store on the west side. The walk will extend 100 feet on Hermiston Avenue, and will improve the property to a great extent. Work commenced last Saturday and will be pushed to completion as rapidly as possible.

EDITORIAL

To get a fair understanding of the proposed contract between the Hermiston Irrigation District and the United States, it is necessary to go back to the organization of the district.

In December, 1919, a large majority of water users of the project, voted to form the Hermiston Irrigation District with the primary purpose of contracting with the United States for the enlarging of the "A" canal. In this election three directors were chosen, J. F. McNaught, Frank Waugamann and E. L. Jackson.

The water users now had two organizations, the newly born Hermiston Irrigation District, and the pioneer Umatilla River Water Users' Association, whose directors are J. F. McNaught, W. J. Warner, Geo. A. Cressy, W. J. Dobler and Thomas Campbell.

The desire for Federal Farm loans on the project at once suggested dissolution of the Water Users' Association, and the assumption of its assets and liabilities by the Hermiston Irrigation District. This involved the negotiating of a new contract with the United States which would transfer the older organizations obligations to the new district.

Numerous matters of vital importance to project settlers, such as drainage, supplemental construction, large betterments in addition to canal "A", and postponement of the payment of deficits, were pressed upon the directors. The present contract which is being submitted to the water users of the Umatilla project, is the result of more than a year's work and negotiation upon the part of the combined directorate of the two organizations, with the United States. This point cannot be too clearly understood—the proposed contract is not handed the water users by the government, but rather is submitted by seven representative tax payers and water users of the project you duly elected directors of the two organizations.

These men feel that they have negotiated a most favorable contract. Your attention is called to the following features of the proposed agreement:

- 1—Present government liens released—opens the way to secure six per cent money for 37 years from government farm loan bank.
- 2—Government wipes off the books \$395,000 construction deficit.
- 3—Provides for putting water on every 40 acre unit on the project.
- 4—Completes enlargement and lining "A" canal and insures other necessary betterments to irrigation and drainage system.
- 5—Further operation and maintenance and building charge will be paid semi-annually as taxes instead of in one yearly payment as at present.
- 6—Limits operation and maintenance charges to actual cost, as deficits now being collected will be postponed until after 1935.
- 7—Present building charge payments will not be increased and cost of betterment work necessary to conserve water and secure drainage and adequate water service, deferred until after 1935.
- 8—The district will have control of all future expenditures and work because written approval of directors is required before work can proceed.
- 9—If any water right contract is annulled by the government in the future, the loss is theirs.
- 10—Limits cost of the project and makes definite water users obligation to the government.
- 11—Payments of all operation and maintenance deficits and additional construction costs deferred until after 1935.

American Legion Big Rabbit Drive Beat Echo Giants Sunday Afternoon

The basket ball game last Friday night between the Purple Giants of Echo and the local American Legion team was perhaps the most interesting game ever played in the Auditorium. The game was full of thrills and excitement from start to finish. The final score was 24 to 17 in favor of the Legion team.

Another game is being planned between these teams and the fans are anxiously awaiting announcement of the date.

Spraying Demonstration

On Wednesday, February 23rd, Mr. Lewis of Hood River, and Prof. C. L. Long, of the O. A. C., will give a spraying demonstration lecture in the Library lecture room at 8:00 o'clock p. m. sharp. All fruit growers interested in spraying should hear this lecture.

Absent Minded

He was a bit absent-minded, was this young professor, immersed in his technical studies; and so, when his bride said to him "Dearest, do you know you haven't kissed me for over three weeks?" he looked blankly at her and asked: "Then my dear, whom have I kissed?"

Holt has been made, although friends of the couple have known of the betrothal. Both are very popular in social circles in Pendleton. Miss Todd who is a girl of charming personality is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Todd of Hermiston. During the war she was active in canteen work and it was largely through her efforts that a Red Cross service was established here. She was accepted for overseas work but because of the close of the war she did not go abroad taking instead a position here as secretary of the Red Cross. Besides other activities, Miss Todd is a prominent member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and one of the officers of the organization.—E. O.

HERMISTON COMMUNITY CLUB PERFECT THEIR ORGANIZATION

RESERVOIR FULL

The Cold Springs reservoir is full of water, having reached the mark which registers a full reservoir. This is the earliest filling in the history of the reservoir, February 15th being the day it was declared full.

This insures an adequate supply of water for irrigation purposes for the coming season, which gives promise of being a record breaker for all of the projects crops.

Standard Oil Reported Leasing

Special to the Herald from our Columbia correspondent.

Rumor has it that the Standard Oil Company is getting busy leasing a body of 8000 acres of land lying somewhere between the Umatilla and Columbia rivers and the reason for securing the same is for oil drilling purposes.

If this is true it cannot be a great way from Columbia District and along with the large water power project on the Columbia river the future may mean a great deal to our community, by the accomplishment of such development.

COLUMBIA NEWS NOTES

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Barham and son Childs, returned Saturday from California where they have been visiting the past two months.

H. J. Stillings recently shipped out some of his blooded Poland China hogs to breeders at Naselle, Oregon City and Vale. Mr. Stillings is continuing to make bigger plans in the hog business owing to good success in the past.

Mrs. Joe Udey and little daughter Florence returned last week from The Dalles, having spent two months there where Florence was receiving medical attention for a broken arm. She is reported as doing nicely now under the circumstances, the break unfortunately being a very bad one.

In order that they may understand the terms of the contract being sent to water users of the project in regard to the new funds to be raised for improvements, a great many voters are going to attend the meeting to be held at Hermiston Friday the 18th. Considerable discussion is going on among the land owners and all are anxious to gain all the information possible on the subject before election.

Pruning School

Many farmers attended the pruning demonstration held at the F. P. Phipps orchard Friday of last week. Several different methods of pruning fruit trees were used, and trees that were taken care of this year, will be pruned by the same men for three years, and a record kept. The result being known at the end of that time, which method is best to employ for the future. Professor C. L. Long of O. A. C., who conducted the school spoke at length upon the subject at a meeting held in Hermiston in the evening. Fred Bennion, county agent, assisted with the work throughout the day.

Road Meeting Held at Columbia

A large number of people, about 70 in all, met at the school house Wednesday evening, for the two purposes advertised, which was the transaction of road business in the signing of a petition to be presented to the county court and the other to listen to discussions of the contract between the water users and the government which will be voted on the 26th of this month. W. J. Warner explained the terms of the contract and showed the benefits to be derived should the contract be accepted by the land owners. A great many questions were asked and explained very satisfactorily.

The Valentine Tea given at the Public Library Monday afternoon proved one of the most pleasant and profitable occasions of the season.

The lecture room of the Library was never more elaborately decorated and proved its fitness as a meeting place for community service. Gay with the perfusion of brilliant red hearts and colorful valentines, softly shaded lights, comfy chairs and cosy corners and an elaborately appointed tea table, the room presented a charming meeting place for the 50 ladies assembled.

Mrs. Thomas Campbell, who was appointed temporary chairman of the proposed organization, presided at the business meeting while Mrs. Newport acted as temporary secretary.

Various means and measures helpful to community interests were discussed and definite plans made for a permanent organization to be known as the Hermiston Community Club. Mrs. C. H. Kellogg was elected president; Mrs. H. E. Hitt, vice-president; Mrs. I. E. Putnam, secretary and Mrs. W. W. Hilsley, treasurer, for the first three months of the organization. A committee was appointed to draw up by-laws and constitution which will be voted on at the next regular meeting to be held February 28th at the Library parlors.

Fifty ladies signed as charter members and 50 cents was placed as the initial dues.

After an interesting business session, the ladies spent a social hour over their tea cups. Mrs. Kellogg was the guiding genius of the decorating committee and Mrs. Hitt had charge of the refreshments. Both committees were favored with the vote of appreciation for making the meeting a decided success.

WILL EXPLAIN CONTRACT TO ANY COMMUNITY GATHERING

The board of directors of the Hermiston Irrigation District and the Umatilla River Water Users Association authorize the Herald to state that they will send a representative to any locality, any time, that they will have a sufficient number of water users gathered together, at any place, to explain the contract between the government and the project settlers.

The board of directors want this contract understood thoroughly before election day, and will place themselves at the disposal of any locality desiring their services.

City Bakery Has New Baker

Peter Menzies, of Portland, arrived the first of the week and is the new baker at the City Bakery. Mr. Menzies came to Hermiston very highly recommended, and Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Sutherland are glad that they have secured the services of one of the best bakers in Portland to take care of their work.

Library Plans a Big Planting Day

The Public Library has designated March 4th, as planting day for the Library grounds. The plan is to plant trees and shrubbery to beautify the grounds, and all those who have trees and hardy varieties of shrubbery, who wish to donate them, will please have them ready to bring to the Library as soon as possible. The trees and plants will be taken care of there until planting day.

It had been planned to plant trees some time ago, but the conditions of the community at that time made the committee in charge change their plans. At that time several had offered trees, and the committee in charge now hope that they will again offer trees and shrubbery so that the grounds around the Library may be made one of the most beautiful spots in the county.

R. A. Stewart, who has been quite ill with pneumonia, has recovered sufficiently to go to Portland where he will visit with relatives while convalescing.