

## HERMISTON WILL CELEBRATE FOURTH

### COMMITTEE IS INSTRUCTED TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS

A Two Day Celebration is Planned Consisting of a Rodeo, Various Sports and Other Things That Go to Make Up a Real Celebration

According to plans that are being made by the sport committee of the Hermiston Commercial club Hermiston will put on a real live 4th of July celebration.

Last week the members of the committee put the proposition up to a number of the business men and asked them for an opinion concerning the matter. It was found that most of them were in favor of the celebration. Last Tuesday a report to this effect was made to the club and the committee instructed to make the plans for the event.

Ben Jerry has promised to stage a rodeo and this will be one of the features of the entertainment. In addition to this a program of sports and various other events are planned.

The committee in charge is composed of men who have a well earned reputation of knowing how to put on a balanced sport program and will endeavor to stage this affair in a manner that will eclipse all other similar events ever held in this city.

All of the business men seem ready to aid in any manner they may be called upon to do so. Hermiston has not had a 4th of July celebration for some time and will spare no expense to make this one to be long remembered.

Hermiston invites you to celebrate the 4th within her portals and promises a day of real enjoyment for all who are her guests on this day.

## EARLY POTATO OUTLOOK GOOD

### PROJECT SHOULD PLANT

Every indication points to a good market for potatoes up until the time when the main crop comes on next fall. The extreme drought in California will cause a very light crop from that state; this means that the new potatoes grown in the Columbia Basin will start off at a good price. With very little snow in the hills there is no question but what irrigation projects that do not have a storage water supply will be without water early in the summer. This will cause a decreased yield through the irrigated section in general.

In view of these facts Hermiston farmers can count on potatoes being a good bet this year. In spite of the optimistic outlook for market a very small amount of seed has been ordered up to date. Unless considerable more seed is secured there will not be much more than enough potatoes grown to supply local markets. If sufficient tonnage can be secured to justify, Lee Lamson, manager of the Three Rivers Association, will handle the sales for local growers.

This week County Agent Bennion is distributing 100 sacks of Weston Mountain Earliest of All, and taking orders for Rural and Nettle Gem seed. For the early market farmers should plant Earliest of All Rurals and Irish Cobblers, and for the August and September market Nettle Gem. Land adapted to potato growing of course should be used. Much of the project will not grow good potatoes, but where uniform soil moisture can be maintained a big tonnage can be expected.

## Declamatory Contest Rules

A great deal of interest is being shown in the Umatilla County Oratorical and Declamatory Contest. The public schools of the county are divided for convenience into five sections. Each of the five sections hold sectional contests on or before the third Friday in March to determine the speakers who shall represent each section of the county in the final contest to be held in Pendleton on the first Friday in April.

No speaker shall be allowed to compete with a selection he has previously spoken at a final contest. No selection which has won first place in a final contest may be used the following year.

The selections that won first place in the high school division are "The Curse of Reculus," "Pro Patria" and "The Little Gentleman."

In the grade division the winning selections are "Riley's Bear Story," "The Raggedy Man" and "Courage."

## Community Club Meeting

The Community Club will hold its next meeting at the library March 4 at 3 o'clock. There will be a paper by Mrs. G. C. Inrie on "Uniform Marriage and Divorce Laws." Mrs. John Alexander will talk on "Home Products." All the members on the program are invited to attend. Mrs. McKeen will have a paper on "Pictures That Tell a story or Legend."

## Band May Be Revived

Last Friday a representative of a Portland music house was in Hermiston. He made the trip to Hermiston for the purpose of interesting local musicians in organizing a band. He talked with a number of them and found a good many enthusiasts. The gentleman stated that if sufficient interest was displayed a bandman would come to Hermiston and help in the organizing and coaching.

## ASPARAGUS MEN ELECT OFFICERS

### SIXTY THOUSAND PLANTS ARE ORDERED

Board of Directors Will Select Officers of the Association Later

The new organization of asparagus men met at the library last Monday night to select their board of directors and to arrange for the buying of plants.

G. R. Robinson, J. W. McMullen, Otto Heini, F. M. Guitwits and Joe Dyer were selected as members of the board of directors. They in turn will at a later date name the officers of the association.

Orders for sixty thousand plants were placed at this time.

### STATE MARKET AGENT DEPARTMENT

C. E. Spence, Market Agent

A movement has started in Eastern Oregon to organize the stock men into a cooperative selling agency. It has started in but one county, Walla, but the state market agent says it is the expectation that all of the other cattle raising counties will follow with organizations and that a statewide shipping association may be the result, and that the ultimate purpose is a stockmen's commission firm at the Portland stock yards.

At the organization meeting at Walla, reports of the condition of the cattle raisers from nearly all sections of the state were made, and the outlook is most gloomy. It was the general sentiment that there must come some speedy relief or most of the cattle men must quit the business and abandon their ranches.

That this condition is not exaggerated, the following from a bulletin sent out by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, from the division of crops and livestock, will show. The bulletin is circulated from the Portland office, and gives the outlook and condition of the stockmen in all the cattle raising counties of Oregon, as sent in by the department's reporters in the various counties. The following are the confessions: Baker county, Keating: "Price of cattle is rotten here, can hardly give them away."

Crook county, Paulina: "The financial condition of the cattlemen in this vicinity is very bad; the feed situation is very good, plenty of hay and not enough cattle to eat it."

Deschutes county, Bend: "The financial situation is bad. The price of labor and the price to be had from products are out of proportion. As a result we are going to have many less farmers and stock men very soon."

Grant county: "Most farmers are in debt as far as they can go; by living economically they may pay their debts and interest but none of the principal. If taxes and what we have to buy would come down to normal, we might yet pull out."

Ritter: "Cattlemen are in very bad shape and if they are crowded very much, or if conditions do not change, a considerable number are liable to go broke this year."

Gilliam county, Condon: "We should have just double what we are now getting, as a cow dollar is only worth fifty cents of most everything we have to buy."

Harney county, Burns: "Twenty per cent of the cattle in this county have been sold and moved out. The financial situation is very depressed on account of low prices and high cost of production thru labor, taxes, equipment and freight rates."

Jackson county, Ashland: "Am holding my herd over until spring in hopes of disposing of the entire lot at somewhere near cost. Estimate of cattle in county 50 per cent of normal. Herds are being bought in this county for \$20 per head, small cattle thrown in."

Josephine county, Tillamook: "One cannot begin to raise cattle for what buyers will pay."

Klamath county, Bly: "Cattle are below the cost of production, so if there is anything you can do, for God's sake do it at once."

Lorella: "Many of the cattlemen have gone bankrupt and the rest are going that way."

Lake County, Fort Rock: "Bend butchers offer us eight cents per pound for beef, dressed and delivered."

Lake County, Landau: "Poor markets, high taxation and cost of grazing. I was forced to sell everything. The reason I have marked the range 75 per cent of normal is because it is growing up to worthless brush."

Isn't it about time that the business interests of Oregon realize the results that are certain to follow? Isn't it about time that a statewide movement is made to save the cattle industry.

## Local Water System Compared With Other Cities

### FOREWORD

(I am presenting this article without any apologies. Let it first be understood as coming from the president of the oil company, we have no well to sell. If the city wants it the price is \$8000, or a well on another location drilled to the same depth with ten inch diameter in bottom. If the city does not want it drilling will be resumed, probably late in March. As a loyal citizen of Hermiston I am interested in a pure water supply for our city. Am representing 400 stockholders and owners of land under lease to us we are indifferent. My hope is that through this information the citizens of Hermiston may be awakened to a deeper investigation of the water problems and possibilities confronting them. Owing to lack of space in The Herald, the most important part of the article will appear next week.—E. P. Dodd.)

What follows does not purport to be a treatise on the domestic water supply of Hermiston. It is merely the result of gathering some data that may prove of some value in the consideration of our present and future supply. The surprising thing is how little we know about something that is so vital to our existence.

From all angles our water system and the quality of our water are two problems of more importance than we generally imagine, or admit to ourselves, which must be dealt with seriously one of these days.

At the outset we must admit that Hermiston is an expensive town to supply with water owing to its large area. Because of its early history business buildings and homes are scattered and long lines of mains necessary. If an earthquake should "bunch" the city on 40 or 60 acres expense of a good system would not exceed half of what is necessary to reach all points on over 200 acres, now supplied. This situation, however is a penalty for having ever been a city. We must pay the bill and charge it up to experience in city building and the privilege of living here.

Other things chargeable to experience are wooden mains, too high elevation of reservoir and pumping into mains. In most instances in neighboring towns where wooden mains were installed under heavy pressure they proved failures. Nature induced us to error again by casting up Hermiston butle 60 feet higher than is necessary to provide pressure for fire protection for any buildings which we may have during our lifetime, at least, and early engineers agreed that pumping into mains did no damage. The result has been wooden mains that leaked, heavy gasoline costs for lifting water to quench fires in four and five story buildings built in our dreams years ago, and a slate that should be washed clean for a new solution of the problem.

The prime objects of a good water system are pure, healthful water and cheap water. At present we have neither. Good drinking water should be free from color, odor and taste and of course free from all organic matter and should contain 300 to 400 parts of inorganic matter like minerals per 1,000,000 parts of water.

The city pump is lifting about 4,000,000 gallons into the mains and we are collecting revenue from less than a million delivered through meters. The remainder being lost through leaks. The best tests always show a heavy bacterial count and colon bacilli which are destroyed by chlorine gas. The water is hard with a heavy alkaline and acid content. Opinions vary as to the use of chlorine but in excess which is detected through taste and odor, it is not healthful. The water is however considered safe from typhoid germs under this treatment. The cost of maintaining the system annually is \$5363.00 and the revenue was in 1923 \$8,026.00. Interest on bonds is \$1500 per year and is provided for through the water charge of 33.60 per month minimum. Our

water bonded indebtedness is \$25,000.00. No sinking fund has been provided.

The cost of irrigation water in the main part of town included in district one is \$1700 annually. Providing irrigation from the government system is requiring gradual duplication which under present procedure will give the city two water systems. An estimated cost of the irrigation system to date is about \$10,000.00 for construction not including distribution and maintenance. This has been raised by property assessment per front foot. One acre of garden is grown on the 80 acres supplied and the balance devoted to lawns and trees with varying results.

Thus we have spent and are spending our money for water. It can plainly be seen that Hermiston is confronting a revision of its water system or systems, which sooner or later will reach an emergency from other cities nearby under similar conditions both in a negative value.

Weston first installed wooden mains and is gradually replacing with national steel, some dipped and wrapped, some only dipped, has gravity supply supplemented with pumping; bonded indebtedness, water only, \$49,000; sinking fund provided by direct taxation; assessed valuation \$189,000; population 600; cost of water \$1.50 per month and \$1.50 per month minimum for irrigation during season; revenue in 1923, \$2460; operation and maintenance about \$300; per capita indebtedness for water \$82.00; per assessed valuation, 26 per cent; system satisfactory.

Athena has paid off a \$30,000 bonded indebtedness by direct taxation providing \$1000 to \$1500 per year except \$500. Her mains are wood and iron. Alkali injures the iron and pumping into wood mains opens leaks at the joints. The supply is only fairly satisfactory and the whole system must soon be replaced.

The Dalles has a bonded indebtedness of \$471,250.00 and a good water system. Per capita indebtedness is about \$80.00.

Pilot Rock installed wooden mains in 1913 and replaced them in 1919 with galvanized steel, because the wood proved unsatisfactory. Their bonded indebtedness is \$28,000.00, including \$4,000.00 for light plant. The large indebtedness is attributed to the original use of wood mains. A 15 mill tax is levied for a sinking fund. Assessed valuation \$185,000.00; per capita indebtedness is about \$75; per assessed valuation 15 per cent. System satisfactory.

Sunnyside, Wash., has just paid out its water bond, but because wood pipe was installed originally is up against entire reconstruction including cast iron pipe, pumping machinery and increased water supply. It has other bonded indebtedness of \$38,500.00; population of the city for last year being \$4500, 2500; has started a guarantee fund, and proposes to issue what they call revenue bonds to be paid off from the water revenue, thus making the water system pay its own way and avoiding a direct tax.

Wasco has a new system and regrets previous losses through not having installed it sooner. The new equipment lifts water from the bottom of 190 foot well with one kind of pump and from a reservoir at the well to a pressure reservoir on a hill. Electrical power costs \$120 per month. Water rates are \$1.50 per month minimum for 1000 gallons and 40 cents per 1000 excess. The system is satisfactory and they invite inspection.

Heppner is carrying a water bonded indebtedness of \$100,000; has a good water system; no sinking fund yet started; per capita indebtedness about \$80.

Union has a bonded indebtedness of \$107,000, of which water is \$52,000.00. Has a good water system. Has arranged with a bonding house for retiring bonds.

La Grande is in debt about \$200,000 and must make extensive improvements in its water system.

Its assessed valuation is \$4,749,650, is contemplating drilling for artesian water or building a line back into the mountains.

Fendleton, in recent years voted bonds for improving its water system amounting to \$300,000.00; built a line 17 miles long to a mountain spring; used concrete pipe with 8 inverted siphons, some under pressure of 90 feet with good results. Assessed valuation \$7,219,036.00; indebtedness about 11 per cent; a good system.

Baker City and Walla Walla have thousands of feet of concrete through out their systems proving eminently satisfactory under pressure. Madras has had some trouble with the joints in concrete pipe resulting in leakage. Pasco, about five times larger than Hermiston, is now spending \$150,000 on improvements to its water system.

Helix, for a small town, has worked out about the most complete system of any reporting. Cost of present system \$7,500.00; cost of operation \$500; price month \$1.50, plus \$1.50 per month in summer for irrigation, when pump is run two hours a day extra for lawns and gardens. The lift to the reservoir is 70 feet which is claimed sufficient for fire protection. Iron mains are used. Water bonds are paid.

Questionnaires were sent to the foregoing and other towns. Few were satisfactorily filled out but such information as each gave is here recorded. A visit to each town by a committee or engineer would be necessary to discover all the difficulties and successes in constructing these systems. No two are alike. Thousands of dollars have been wasted through mistakes; poor advice; importunities of pipe salesmen; politics and prejudice and conceit; and water users and taxpayers are paying the bill. No well established or universal system of construction prevails. The better parts of a number of city systems might be combined into a somewhat perfect system and economically installed.

Eleven cities in the Willamette valley including Eugene, Albany and Salem have formed an association as the first steps toward the construction of a \$7,000,000 pipe line from Clear Lake in the Cascades to supply them with pure water. This will cost about \$100 per capita for the people supplied. They have used creeks, wells and the old Willamette in the past, but epidemics, general unhealthful conditions, pride in development of home conditions and increased knowledge of the qualities and effect of water has awakened their conscience and stirred public enterprise. Many years ago Bull Run water became the boast and pride of Portland.

(Continued next week.)

## THE VOICE OF THE SIREN

Very soon office seekers will be calling on you with a handshake and a line of talk that has been especially prepared to catch your vote. He will tell you how taxes can be cut or if the "dear people" will only put him in office that he aspires to he will bring about the much needed reforms.

It is to laugh for most of it is "bunk," pure unadulterated "bunk." You have heard the same old story for years and it will be repeated just so long as political office seekers find it a convenient and successful way of getting their fingers in the pie.

The first politician who resorted to this method neglected to procure a patent on this brand of conversation and others have been stealing his thunder ever since.

Be not deceived by the oily tongue and the flowery promises of the politician. Study the issues yourself so that you may vote intelligently when you go to the polls. This is the only way to remedy the evils that are apparent.

A man gets soaked by the bootlegger and gets soaked on the booze and still the judge soaks him.

## BURGLARS ARE AGAIN AT WORK

### HOUSEHOLD GOODS STORED IN WAREHOUSE RIFLED

All of the Articles Taken are Returned Excepting a Few Coins

While looking for a house Herbert Sheeley had stored his household goods in the W. W. Felthouse warehouse. A few days ago he had an occasion to visit the building and found someone had broken into the trunks and boxes and taking articles of clothing which they contained.

He immediately notified the authorities of the robbery. The person who broke into the warehouse was tracked several blocks and then the trail was lost.

Those who were responsible for the crime evidently had "cold feet" for a couple of days later all of the things taken were returned excepting a few coins which are of no value except as keepsakes.

### EXPERIMENT STATION NOTES

(By H. K. Dean)

The conditions in the west end of Umatilla county and the north end of Morrow county are ideal for the development of a lamb feeding industry. We raise alfalfa which is the basis of the fattening ration, we can purchase grain economically from the surrounding grain farmers and the sheep men have the feeder lambs for sale.

During the past two winters the Umatilla Station has been conducting lamb feeding tests to determine primarily what may be secured for the hay by feeding it to lambs. The indications are that over a period of years that we can secure a premium for the hay, have profitable labor during the winter months and keep the much needed fertility on the farms. This winter three other car loads are being fed in the vicinity of Hermiston.

A feeder tour will be held Monday afternoon, March 3, for the purpose of visiting these feed lots and making a study of the lamb feeding. The tour will leave Hermiston promptly at 1:30 first visiting the feed lots of C. M. Jackson. Then the party will go to E. J. Jackson's to see the "gummy" ewes and lambs and then go to the Experiment Station to go over the results secured last year and this. There will be outside speakers.

## GARNER TAX BILL PASSED BY HOUSE

### Group of Republicans Assists Democrats in Amending Revenue Bill

Washington, D. C.—Aided by a group of republicans, most of their insurgents, house democrats eliminated from the revenue bill the Mellon income tax rates. By a vote of 225 to 196 a schedule advanced by Representative Garner, democrat, Texas was substituted.

The bill as amended fixes the surtax maximum at 44 per cent on incomes in excess of \$92,000 as against 50 per cent on incomes exceeding \$200,000 under existing law, and 25 per cent on incomes of more than \$100,000, as recommended by the treasury. It also reduces normal income rates to a greater extent than Mr. Mellon recommended and increases personal tax exemptions, a feature not in the treasury draft.

Before approving the Garner proposal, which received the support of 17 republicans, one farmer-laborite, and one independent, in addition to 203 democrats, the house went on record as opposed to rates substantially the same as those recommended by Mr. Mellon and rejected an amendment by Representative Fear of Wisconsin, an insurgent, to cut normal rates in half without altering the existing surtax schedules.

### OREGON NEWS NOTES

A cruise of all the timber along the line of the projected cutoff of the Southern Pacific between Oakridge and Kirk will be made by the United States forest service.

Approximately 100 editors and publishers from different parts of Oregon met at Eugene for the sixth annual Oregon newspaper conference at the University of Oregon.

Both the Oregon Packing company and the Starr Fruit Products company of Salem have entered the market for berries of the 1924 crop, according to reports from farmers. The prices offered by these canneries, it was said, have been fixed at 7 cents for Etterberg strawberries and 6 cents for Wilsons and Trebias. Loganberries will demand 4 1/2 cents, although this price may be advanced when the production season arrives.

## POULTRYMEN TO ORGANIZE SOON

### ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION BEING PREPARED

Will Probably be Ready for Signatures Next Week. Growers Having 100 Hens Will Now Be Taken In

Work on the formation of the Poultry association is progressing. Mr. Bennion is preparing the articles of incorporation and contracts which will be ready for signatures probably next week.

When these papers are prepared Mr. Bennion and Mr. Hurd of O. A. C., and probably Mr. Dixon, of the Oregon state poultry association, will come to Hermiston and hold a special organization meeting.

All who have signed the preliminary agreement and others interested should not delay in making arrangements for young chicks. It has been decided to accept into membership growers with 100 hens or more which will open the advantages of an association to beginners and those who are unable to finance larger flocks.

Mr. Crosby when he was positive in his statement that the growing of hens and the organization of a cooperative association were so clearly linked that both should proceed together to bring success.

The plan is much like that just put over for the asparagus growers. Mr. Bennion is taking an active interest in the poultry program and just now the big thing is to get your chicks. The rest will be taken care of.

### Neighborhood Club News Notes

The Neighborhood club met with Mrs. Joe Udey on Wednesday afternoon and there were 20 in attendance. The committee on entertainment reported that we cleared over \$37. A heavy vote of thanks was extended to Mr. and Mrs. Otto Heini for the plants they donated to the club to be auctioned off and to Dr. Prime, Mr. Hamm, Miss Wentworth and to Mr. and Mrs. Crosland for the splendid music furnished. Also to Prof. Davis for service rendered and to everyone who helped to make the entertainment a success. Mrs. Paulsen read a splendid paper on "Social Conditions and Customs of Japan." The current events were given by Mrs. Simmons. The next meeting will be March 12 at the home of Mrs. Casady with Mrs. Carmen as assistant hostess.

Mrs. Walter Lloyd of Pendleton, came up for the entertainment and also visited with her mother and sister, Mrs. Carmen, while here. Three other visitors at the entertainment were Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Ayer and Miss Kittle Vonmetter, of Walla Walla. They stayed with Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Myers.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Smith, of Echo, made the day at the Brooks ranch Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Linder spent Sunday at Walter Blessing's in Hermiston.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ott have a brand new baby girl which came to them last Saturday. Both mother and baby are doing well.

The fruit growers met at the library Wednesday afternoon. They decided to order a carload of oil for the dormant spray. Those wanting a dormant spray should get into communication with Mr. Heini.

Grade School Pupils Present Program

The grade schools of Hermiston presented a program last Thursday evening in the school auditorium. A large crowd was in attendance. The playlets and dances were exceptionally clever.

The first and second grades presented a Dutch dance. The third grade gave a Greek drama. The fifth grade girls gave a drill and the boys an Indian dance. The sixth grade gave a Swiss dance and a playlet, while the seventh and eighth grades contributed to the program with two plays and a mock trial. A tidy sum was realized from the program and will be used to pay off a debt contracted by the purchase of a phonograph.

Farm Reminders

Asparagus once planted is good for many years. It is one of the first vegetables to be ready for use in the spring. It will grow well under a variety of soil and climatic conditions. Asparagus is best when served within a few hours after cutting, hence its added value as a farm vegetable. A circular on planting is available at O. A. C.

Entertainment at Columbia is Well Attended

The entertainment given by the Neighborhood club at the Columbia school house last Saturday night was well attended. Quite a number of Hermiston residents motored out to the school house and enjoyed a well rendered program.

The "Snigzles Family," a comedy playlet presented by the ladies of the club, was a side splitting affair. The mother of the Snigzles family composed of daughters who were blessed with beauty, charm and grace had each do a stunt to display her individual accomplishment. The manner in which the skit was offered demonstrated that the Neighborhood club has some real talent along this line. The other numbers that composed the program were exceptionally good and reflected credit to those who participated.

## Last Year's Business

