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SOLDIERS ARRIVE AT ORDNANCE SITE CHRISTMAS NIGHT

GLAD TO BE HERE IS GENERAL OPINION

By Rilie R. Morgan, Jr.

PORTLAND—With a day-old new year just here, it might be appropriate for the people of Oregon to take an inventory of the past year's happenings. Oregon has been fortunate in many ways, and unfortunate in many others. During the past year we have seen many industries go to other states which should have been located here. Several others have moved over the line to Washington. Old industries, too, which have been successfully operating here in Oregon for many, many years. Why? Some day the people of Oregon will wake up to the fact that the state tax structure, as it now exists, has done more to keep new industry out of Oregon than any other thing; the state income tax being the chief bone of contention of all business, large and small.

Both Washington and California, with their sales tax, have successfully answered the tax question to the detriment of Oregon, which, as we all know, has consistently voted down a sales tax each time it has been before the people. The tax experts conservatively estimate that Oregon is losing over five million a year, because a sales tax gets everyone, while the income tax does not, by a long way. And, incidentally, the sales tax is the real answer to old-age pensions and relief. Both of our neighboring states have successfully solved this problem through the sales tax. The money continues to roll into the treasurer's office in far larger proportions than is ever collected by a state income tax. The next session of the legislature should give this burning question prompt attention and again submit a sales tax measure to the people for their decision. It might be well to remember that the people rejected the state income tax measure several times before they enacted it. Therefore it is reasonable to believe the voters might say yes the next time, on a sales tax and repeal the income tax.

The war has certainly given the incumbent office-holders a break. Governor Sprague, who, the political prophets said, was running second for re-nomination prior to the outbreak of hostilities, has seen his political stick take quite a jump in the last few weeks. War news has pushed all political publicity and politicians, except the governor, back to the classified pages. That's where you generally read the ads about goiter cures and electric belts. But the governor still makes the front page, because he is governor, much to the detriment of his opponents. People don't seem to be interested in politics now. What they want is war news, and then some. "Don't change horses in the middle of the stream" will probably be the campaign cry of the incumbents, and it might work.

Small manufacturing firms in Oregon might get a break in the next few weeks. The OPM and priorities had, in most cases, deprived them of necessary raw materials, forcing many to drastically curtail their output and some to close down entirely. Representatives of OPM are now in Oregon looking the situation over and it is understood they will lighten the priorities ban, which will allow many of the small manufacturers to resume operations; and that means many men will go back to work.

THOSE WHO COME AND GO—Ed Bailey of Eugene, lawyer and former candidate for governor, pays a visit. . . Harry Boivan of Klamath Falls, former speaker of the house, and Phil Parrish, editor-in-chief of the Oregonian, break bread together. . . Bill Perkins, who used to be with the Eastern Oregon Wheat League and now a cafe operator here, flits by. . . Dow Walker of Newport, ex-big clansman of the Ku Klux Klan, is here. . . Ex-lawmaker John Hall and Speaker Robert Farrell, Portland boys who have made good, chat for a while. . . Mr. Chin Su, Chinese consul, pays his lunch bill to Cashier Elsie Johnson, the tall good-looking blonde, and looks twice. . . Senator W. H. Steiwer of Fossil, who, it is said, will be the next president of the state senate, looks things over. . . W. D. Blackstone of Freewater, Mrs. E. L. Knox and O. Seaman of John Day sit and watch those who come and (Continued on Page Five)

COMMERCIAL CLUB MEETING SET FOR NEXT TUESDAY

Due to the fact that dedication ceremonies of the U. S. O. building may conflict with the regular meeting night of the Hermiston Commercial club, this date has been advanced to Tuesday, January 6, in the high school cafeteria. The Rebekah lodge will serve a dinner at 7:00 o'clock.

According to President George Harkenrider, several matters of importance will be brought up during the evening. An election of officers will also be held.

It is urged that all members and new business men of Hermiston attend the dinner as plans for the new year will be discussed.

ONE DAY HOLIDAY SCHEDULED HERE

Students of Hermiston schools will enjoy a one-day rest over New Year's. Regular classes will be held Friday, according to Superintendent W. G. Kersbergen, who indicated that it was easier to attend classes now than in the summer when hot weather begins.

Final examinations for the first semester will be given next week. Report cards will be issued the week following.

Little drop in enrollment has been noted during the past few days. Ten new students enrolled Monday and Tuesday of this week.

DONNA SAYLOR TO COMPETE FOR TRIP

Each year the D.A.R. of Oregon sponsors a contest for leading senior girls in the various high schools of the state. First prize is a free trip to Washington, D. C. Contestants must be senior girls of high scholastic standing and leaders in local citizenship. Miss Donna Saylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Saylor, has been chosen to represent Hermiston in the contest.

Each representative is required to write an essay. Those not winning the coveted trip to the United States capitol will be awarded pins.

ONE INJURED IN AUTOMOBILE WRECK

An almost fatal accident occurred Tuesday morning on the jinx curve on Highway 30 near O'Grady's Service Station south of Hermiston when two cars smashed up due to slippery pavement. Most seriously injured was Cal Israelson of Seattle, Wash., who suffered a seriously injured spine, possible internal injuries and minor bruises.

Occupants of the other car escaped with minor bruises. Both cars were badly smashed up.

War Needs Money—YOURS!



This war calls for every ounce of energy, every dime and dollar we can muster for ships—and planes—and guns.

Hit the enemy with a \$25 Bond. Hurt him with a \$50 Bond. Help to blow him sky-high with a \$100 or \$1,000 Bond. Don't delay—every hour counts. Buy United States Defense Bonds and Stamps TODAY.

MAC HIGH COMING FRIDAY NIGHT

One of the best basketball games of the season is expected Friday night when the high-flying Mac High basketball team comes to Hermiston to meet Coach Ray Critchfield's Bulldogs. The game is expected to be a gauge as to the apparent strength of this circuit which must contend with The Dalles or Hood River for a free trip to the state basketball tourney.

The two teams are very evenly matched, each having defeated Pendleton. It has been several years since Hermiston has been given any chance to defeat the "twin city" boys.

A doubleheader has been scheduled for the evening with the first tilt to get underway at 7:30.

USO KITCHEN FUND LAUNCHED HERE

A fund which will provide an electric stove, cooking utensils and dishes for the new U.S.O. building has been started in Hermiston this week. The funds are expected mainly from returned "dividend" checks from a sum of money raised last year when Hermiston merchants purchased a tract of land west of the city and donated it to the U. S. government for the construction of Tertel Town.

A balance from this fund has been returned to donors on a pro rata basis. A return of these checks to be used for the kitchen fund is urgently requested by the U.S.O. committee. Meetings of the Commercial club, Rotary and numerous other organizations will be held in the new building and it is necessary to equip the kitchen with the necessary utensils in addition to an electric stove.

Anyone wishing to aid in this worthy cause is asked to get in touch with The Herald office soon. Especially is it urged that those receiving surplus checks cooperate in this project. A list of donors will be published next week.

SEWER ELECTION FOR BOND ISSUE EXPECTED SOON

Word is expected daily for the go ahead signal on the Hermiston sewer and water improvement project. Survey preliminaries have all been completed, according to Mayor F. C. McKenzie, who stated Wednesday that a house-to-house canvass indicated that Hermiston residents are greatly in favor of the proposed project.

Following receipt of the go ahead signal, Mayor McKenzie and the city council will call an election. Approximately three weeks must elapse from the calling of an election before actual voting is done.

WAR CAMPAIGN IS COMPLETED HERE

Response to the second Red Cross roll call or war fund campaign was met with splendid response in Hermiston and vicinity. A total sum of \$375.78 was turned over to the county chairman this week by Mrs. F. B. Belt, Hermiston chairman.

Anyone wishing to donate further to the cause is asked to leave contributions at the First National Bank.

RESERVOIR AT COLD SPRINGS HALF FULL

For the first time in recent years, little fear is felt that Cold Springs reservoir will not be full when irrigation season rolls around next summer. According to E. D. Martin, manager, the reservoir is over half full at the present time and with the falling snow in the mountains a full reservoir is assured.

Irrigation officials are greatly relieved concerning the condition, as it is now possible to shut off the flow in the feed canal during sub-freezing weather, thus avoiding any trouble from frozen ditches and canal gates.

ASSISTANT COUNTY AGENT TAKES COOL DIP IN ICY CANAL DITCH WATER

Gene Lear, assistant county agent, experienced the thrill of a life time last Wednesday when he was plunged into the icy waters in an irrigation ditch on the Ralph Saylor farm in the Butter Creek district. He attempted to walk a foot bridge across the canal when he discovered (too late) that the bridge was a loose board floating on top of the water.

The net result was a very wet and chilled county agent. Aside from a slight cold, no serious trouble has resulted. One of his New Year's resolutions will be, no doubt, a better inspection hereafter of foot bridges.

TRIPLE KILLER'S CASE POSTPONED

Homer I. Watts and Charles A. Peterson Monday filed formal notice in circuit court in Pendleton that John Anthony Soto pleaded not guilty to charges of murder because "he was insane or mentally defective" at the time of the alleged commission of the crime and "therefore is not guilty as charged in the indictment."

Representations also were made by the attorneys they had not yet been able to obtain certain depositions to be taken in California and asked that the case be continued until the January term of court. Judge Sweek acquiesced by signing an order continuing the case until next month.

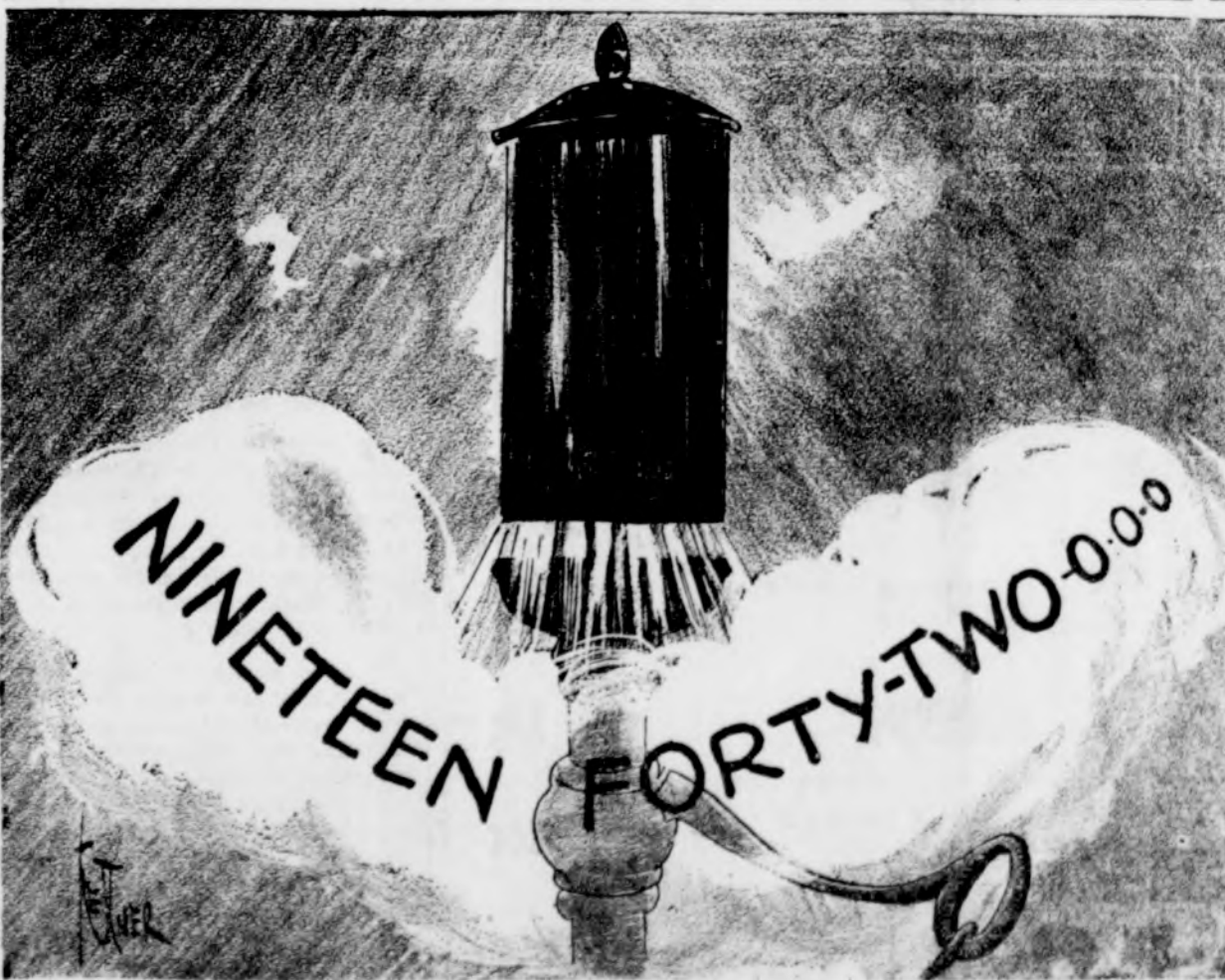
Soto has been held in the Umatilla county jail without bail since his arrest early in October for a triple slaying. He is charged with the murder of Mrs. Cora Tobin, her son Kenneth Gorsuch, and her nephew, Marvin Adams, of near Hermiston.

GIFFORD ESTATE IS PROBATED

The estate of Henry V. Gifford, who passed away December 11, 1941, leaving an estate valued at about \$6,500, was probated last week by County Judge Carl W. Chambers, who appointed the deceased's widow, Ruby G. Gifford, administratrix.

F. E. Swayze, Pete Berg and Dale Draper of Hermiston are appraisers.

An Industrious New Year to You



U. S. O. MOVES INTO NEW BUILDING AS WORK COMPLETED

DANCE SCHEDULED FOR SOLDIER BOYS

Moving operations of the U. S. O. center were in full swing Wednesday when all equipment, which has been housed for the past few months in the Hermiston Irrigation building, was moved to the new location Wednesday afternoon and Thursday. A full program of activities is slated to get underway Friday, according to Miss Mary Lou Johnson, who is in charge of the local program.

A series of presentations are necessary prior to U. S. O. acceptance of the local building. F. W. Gregory, of the federal works administration, will present the building to Don Orput, representative of the federal security, who in turn will present it to Miss Mary Lou Johnson, representing the United Service organization.

The Hermiston Legion auxiliary will be host Friday night to a group of soldiers now stationed at the ordnance depot. A regimental band from the troops will play during the evening. Refreshments are also being planned. Dances will be held hereafter every Tuesday and Friday.

Members of the auxiliary are urging that young women of the community especially attend the dance Friday night. Items needed during the next few weeks include coat hangers, magazines and books, and a favorite with the young men is the cookie jar which will be filled by volunteer contributions. Volunteer ladies are also urged to report as hostesses.

The building here has been accepted by the government from the contractor, McCormack & Foley, Inc., with the exception of hardware, installation of which is scheduled to take place immediately. The project, including furnishings which have not yet arrived, involved \$28,000. The building is 72 x 94 feet, outside dimensions, and is of very strong wooden construction on concrete foundation. It is equipped with modern heating plant, large fireplace and lavatory with shower facilities.

The interior of the building features a large central room which also may be used as a ballroom, and two smaller rooms are located off this, which may be used for game rooms or whatever the USO decides upon. Floors are of hardwood, ceilings of ivory colored fibre-board blocks, walls of fibre-board kalsomined in buff and with wooden trim a tan color. The windows are covered with venetian blinds.

A formal dedication program is being planned but no definite date has been set.

LOCAL TEACHER HOLIDAY GROOM

Of interest to his many friends here is the announcement of the marriage of Miss Alta May Alverson and Mervin Werth on Saturday, December 20, at McMinnville. Mr. Werth has been an instructor in the local schools for several years and is popular with the students.

Mrs. Werth is now teaching school at Canby and expects to complete the year's contract. Mr. Werth, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Werth of Willamina, returned to Hermiston last week end loaded with cigars.

The wedding ceremony was performed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Grover in McMinnville with the Rev. James Osborn officiating.

LOCAL STORES TO LIMIT DELIVERIES

The Hermiston Trading Co. and the Hermiston Food Store have announced a new policy of only one delivery daily, at 10:30, beginning the first of the year. The step was taken to fall in line in the conserving of vital products such as rubber and gas for national defense.

Basketball Doubleheader - Friday, 7:30 - Mac Hi vs. Bulldogs