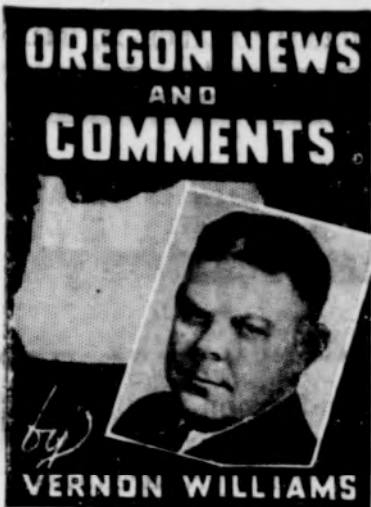




OREGON NEWS AND COMMENTS
by **VERNON WILLIAMS**

PORTLAND—J. D. Mickle, state director of agriculture and head of the Oregon state fair, caused considerable concern among Oregon farmers and livestock breeders last week when he announced that the state fair may not be held this year. All of the county fairs, state fair, Pendleton Roundup, Oregon Turkey show and several others are dependent upon the revenues received from dog racing in order to stage these annual events. According to Mr. Mickle, if dog racing is not held this year it would be impossible to pay the cost of the numerous fairs for the reason that without this revenue they are not self-supporting. The state fair alone last year received approximately \$30,000 from that source.

The military authorities seem to be hesitant about crowds of over 5,000 gathering in any one spot, yet figures show that only a trifle over 5,000 people is the average daily attendance at the Portland dog races. Then again, point out the fair heads, several dog tracks which have been operating on the eastern seaboard have just closed their annual meets and the daily crowds there averaged many thousands more than they do in Portland.

Another \$500,000 of airport projects have been approved for Oregon. Of this sum the Clatsop airport receives more than half; the allotment for this airport, which is near Astoria, is \$199,386 to be used in clearing, grubbing, installing culverts, tide gates, catch basins, grading, surfacing, extending runways, etc. For the Medford airport \$13,479 is allowed for paving runways. There is to be development of the airport at Salem and the airfield for The Dalles which is located on the Washington bank of the Columbia. These and the many other airfields which CAA is constructing in the state are not only for the duration but part of a planned program to carry on into the distant future. It is recognition of the importance airplanes will play in the life of Oregon. Incidentally, CAA is preparing to train 75,000 civilian fliers, with the understanding that when they are competent their services will be available to the federal government.

After almost one year of delay Metals Reserve corporation has finally financed a development of zinc properties in the Santiam country, Marion county. This is built some where in the vicinity of Portland. The smelter is in abeyance. However, the enterprise has been allowed sufficient funds to open up the zinc deposits and concentrate them. The concentrates will be sent to Anaconda, Mont. Until there was a shake-up in OPM and WPB took over, the zinc section of OPM discouraged all mineral development in Oregon with a view to preventing the establishing of competition for the big mining corporations.

The change in attitude applies to Chrome. Earl K. Nixon of the Oregon bureau of mines has succeeded in having Metals Reserve Corp. interest itself in the deposits of chrome in southern Oregon, eastern Oregon and northern California. The former requirements were such that no producer could afford to attempt to sell chrome to the government. It is said there are about 5,000 miners in the territory who are interested in chrome, and under the new arrangement and the price effective April 1 there is a chance for them to make money.

On the suggestion of a mint grower in Columbia county Leon Henderson, price administrator, has set his staff to making a study of the peppermint oil situation. The Oregon suggestion was that \$7.50 a pound would be a fair price. Henderson's men reported that it is too late to fix the price on oil from the 1941 crop as it is already in the hands of dealers or consumers. The staff will consider fixing a price on this year's crop. Mint is grown in a dozen different sections of Oregon and is a specialty crop.

Farm tractors were given priority on rubber tires, but now WPB has issued an order abolishing rubber tires and the manufacturers of tractors are told to make them with steel wheels. There is not enough rubber available, says WPB, to make a golf ball. Advice going out to farmers from the national capital is that they should become more cooperative and use the same machinery, moving it from place to place after the fashion of a threshing crew.

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COMMISSIONER JOB POPULAR AS FIVE CANDIDATES FILE

CITIZENS URGED TO REGISTER NOW

With the deadline for filing for the May 15 primaries March 30, political lines in Umatilla county are pretty well drawn up. The only real race for the county office is the commissioner post left vacant by the recent passing of W. H. (Bill) Switzler. Five men have made their intentions known as seeking this post, namely: Burdett Ross, W. G. Rodda, Allen Thompson and Henry Biamont, republicans, and Paul Kaip, democrat.

Other offices coming up for election all have filings but in most instances no races are in prospect. The following is a list of filings:

County judge, Carl W. Chambers, incumbent republican.

County clerk, Mrs. E. B. Casteel, incumbent republican.

County recorder, Jack Folsom, incumbent republican.

County treasurer, Betty DeHart, incumbent republican; Pauline Mosgrove, republican.

Umatilla port commission, Glen Storie, incumbent republican; Harry Hull, Umatilla republican.

Registration books for coming elections are now open and will be closed April 15. For county and state elections in May, voters may register at Mayor F. C. McKenzie's office at the Oregon Hardware & Implement Co. and for the city election at the office of Charles Taylor, recorder.

Primary elections will be held in May when nominations for governor and other state offices and for district and county offices will be made.

All new citizens who have been in the state six months and in the precinct 30 days will be eligible to register. Registration may also be made with the county clerk at the courthouse in Pendleton.

ARTESIAN WELL TESTS INDICATE SUFFICIENT FLOW

Tests of the artesian well located southwest of Hermiston have been quite satisfactory, according to Mayor F. C. McKenzie who has supervised the experiment. The present plan is to utilize the well for the new Hermiston water project.

A pump was in operation at the well for 21 hours one day this week, pumping an average of 275 gallons per minute during that time. A four-inch suction pipe was used at a depth of 28 feet with a three-inch discharge. The most significant result of the experiment, according to Mr. McKenzie, is the fact that due to the pumping experiment the natural flow of the well was increased from 40 gallons to 100 gallons per minute, indicating that there is an unlimited resource of water available.

It is hoped to use this water for the main supply for the city, using the present well near the Butte for an auxiliary.

SOTO DIES FRIDAY IN GAS CHAMBER

John Anthony Soto, 17, who last September committed a triple murder three miles west of Hermiston, died in the Oregon lethal gas chamber in Salem Friday.

Soto, fugitive from the Sonoma, Cal., state home for feeble-minded and eldest of seven children of Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Soto, Porto Ricans of Niles, Cal., died five seconds after the gas fumes reached his face. Prison officials said it was the quickest execution on record.

Soto appeared indifferent to the end and smoked a cigar up to the moment he entered the death chamber. He ate heartily at dinner last Thursday night and breakfast Friday, and slept soundly. He asked, just before entering the execution chamber, to be "remembered to my folks."

GUN CLUB PLANS TRAP SHOOTING

Another of a series of Sunday trap shoots will be held this week at the trap shooting grounds southeast of Hermiston on Highway 30. Activities will begin at 10:00 a. m. and will continue during the day.

A fine crowd was in attendance last Sunday. The events are staged as practice affairs under the sponsorship of the Hermiston Rod & Gun club.

R.A.F. Raid on Paris Reverberates in U. S.



A view of part of the huge Renault automobile plant in the suburbs of Paris is shown at left. This plant was the main target of R.A.F. bombers that blasted the Paris area, killing and wounding hundreds. Renault has been working on German contracts for over a year. Right: French Ambassador Gaston Henri-Haye (right) expresses strong indignation over the British bombing to a reporter in Washington, after talking with Sumner Welles, acting secretary of state.

PORTLAND MEN HERE ON GOOD WILL MISSION

A group of 26 Portland business and professional men made a two-hour stop in Hermiston Wednesday morning en route home following a visit into Washington. The men, who were on a good will tour for the Portland Chamber of Commerce, made stops at Pasco, Milton-Freewater, Walla Walla, Hermiston, Arlington and The Dalles.

Considerable activity was reported around Pasco where several government projects are now underway. They were particularly impressed as to how Hermiston and surrounding towns managed to house for the thousands of workers here last summer. While in Hermiston the men visited various business houses with which they do business.

The trip from Walla Walla was made by Greyhound bus.

HERMISTON BOYS NAMED TO OFFICE

Hermiston lads attending school again made the headlines this week when news was received here that Jim Jackson and Kenneth Benschel had been elected to important offices of the Maple Manor cooperative boarding house for boys on the Oregon State campus. Jim was elected president and Kenneth was named the new manager.

Apparently the training the boys received here in cooperative methods are coming in quite handy in their work at school.

SCHOOL STUDENTS ENJOY VACATION

"It's the real McCoy," stated a happy youngster on the street Wednesday when asked why he was not in school. Because all the teachers are attending the annual institute in Portland this week, all classes were dismissed Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week.

Regular classes will be resumed next week. Mumps have taken quite a toll among the students during the past few weeks but the siege now appears to be waning.

TED RIPLEY NOW IN SECOND CLASS

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Ripley this week received a telegram from their son Ted that he will graduate March 28 with a class of 80 who have successfully passed their primary training examinations. A class of 210 men began the course some months ago but only 80 were successful.

Ted will now be sent to Merced, Cal., for the basic training course which is rated as quite difficult.

UMATILLA MAN IS NEW PORT MEMBER

The Umatilla port commission this week announced that Harry A. Hull of Umatilla had been appointed port commissioner to fill the unexpired term of the late W. H. (Bill) Switzler, whose term would have expired with the end of this year.

The port commissioner post will be filled by election this year. The port commission is now in the preliminary stages of the railroad spur project at Umatilla.

INITIAL PAYMENT OF FEDERAL GRANT MAKES APPEARANCE

City officials this week were in receipt of the first portion of the federal grant for the proposed sewer and water projects in Hermiston. The money is a direct grant from the Federal Works administration to be used for these civic improvements.

A total of \$14,427 was received for use in the sewer construction and \$12,516 for the water improvement project. Mayor F. C. McKenzie stated Wednesday that ensuing grants would be made as the work advanced. Considerable interest is being shown in regards to the bidding on the proposed work. The bids will be publicly opened Monday, April 6. The advertisements for the two projects appear on other pages of this week's edition.

FEED AND SEED LOAN SUPERVISOR COMING

C. A. Riley, field supervisor of the Emergency Crop and Feed Loan office, will be in the Assistant county agent's office from one to five p. m. on Friday, April 3.

Any farmers who wish may obtain a loan for the purpose of purchasing feed or seed up to \$400 maximum with the emergency crop and feed loan office. Anyone who is interested in getting these loans will speed up the loan by contacting Mr. Riley when he is here and filling out the necessary papers.

Mr. Riley will also be at the assistant county agent's office on April 17, May 1, May 15 and May 29, from one to five p. m.

AGENT ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FOUR-H STUDENTS

WINNERS TO ATTEND SUMMER SCHOOL

Two committees of 4-H local leaders met at the office of the assistant county agent recently and selected the outstanding home economics and agricultural club members in west Umatilla county.

The basis of awards which these committees judged the work of the club members on, consisted of years in club work, projects completed, co-operation of the club member, leadership and the participation record of the club member in club activities such as judging teams, demonstrations, and other contests. The tentative list of those chosen by these committees and the donor of the scholarship is as follows:

Pocahontas club, Frances Chapman; Eastern Star, Pauline Roach; Project Farm Bureau, Dorothy Hiatt; Project Farm Bureau, Bill Hibbard; Inland Cooperative, Wayne Barber; Cooperative Creamery, Agnes Riley; Commercial Club, David Dufur; Farm Bureau Cooperative, Charlotte Corneille; Echo Wool Growers, Virginia Picanso; Hermiston Bank, Bob Attebury; Stanfield Grange, Elaine Hogg; Columbia Grange, Dorothy Knox; Westland Grange, Robert Grimps; Legion Auxiliary and Hermiston Herald, Gordon Shown.

Alternates chosen by the committees which selected the agricultural outstanding club members were as follows, to be selected in the order listed:

Wilbur Hunt, Zelma Sutton, Peggy Sommerer, Jack Rodgers, Virginia Borthwick and Lewis Wilson.

Alternates selected by the home economics committee were Eleanor Eckert and Juanita Brown.

As stated previously this is a tentative list and may include others later.

4-H Summer School will be held at Oregon State college at Corvallis June 2 to 12 inclusive. H. C. Seymore, state club leader, recently met with the governor's state agricultural advisory committee in order to get their opinion on whether or not summer school should be held this year. It was the unanimous opinion of this agricultural council that summer school should be held as usual and this group praised the summer school activity very highly.

F. B. FEDERATION HAS LARGE MEETING TUESDAY EVENING

Over 100 farmers and their families attended the Farm Bureau Federation dinner Tuesday evening at the Columbia club house. Eighteen new members were enrolled in the state and county organization which together with 15 previously signed makes a total of 33 at present. Enrollment is expected to continue here with prospects of a largely increased membership.

"Organization among farmers was never more needed than at the present time in order that their needs may be presented as a unit," stated Leslie Stewart, manager of the Walla Walla Farm Bureau cooperative who addressed the meeting on organization work and other timely topics. Roy Ritner, secretary of the county organization, told of the organization plan and its benefits. A. H. Cable, local president, called on visiting officers of county bureaus for short talks.

Among those responding were Sam Ingle, president of Milton-Freewater, Don Cameron of Pilot Rock and Cecil Yates, president of the county bureau. Charles Baker of Walla Walla was unable to be present.

Ladies of the Farm Bureau auxiliary served the dinner.

F. S. A. FIELD MAN MAKES VISIT HERE

William O. Wright, F.S.A. field man, federal credit union division, was a week end visitor from Washington, D. C. He stated that the financial condition of the Hermiston Credit union was promising, and that considerable progress has been made since his visit several months ago.

Officers of the local union are William C. Kik, Hermiston, president; Riley C. Leeper, Stanfield, vice president, and Mrs. Georgia Henderson, Hermiston, treasurer.

