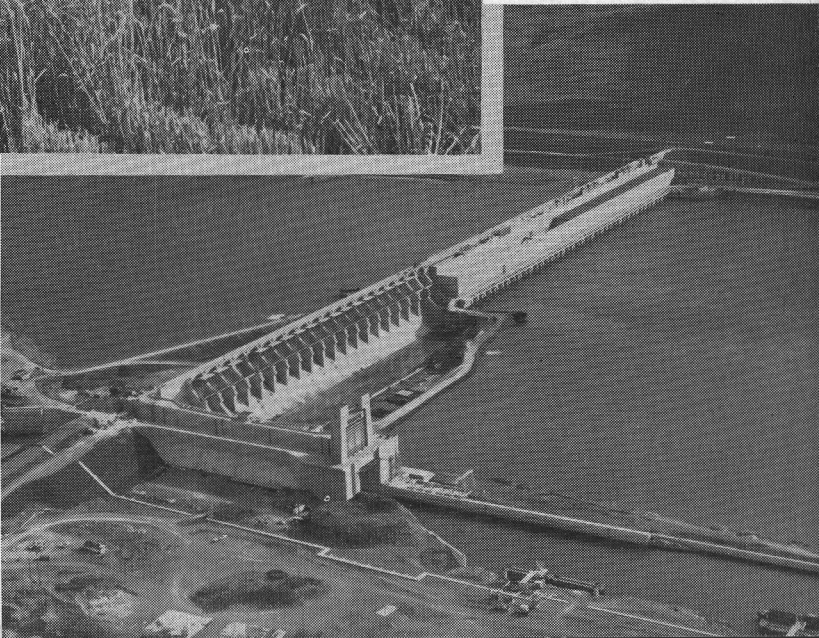


Planning for Tomorrow
In
Sherman County, Oregon

1967 Long Range Planning Conference



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INTRODUCTION

This 1967 Sherman County Long-Range Planning Conference was sponsored by the Sherman Rural Advisory Council.

In November of 1966, plans were laid and committees formed. Chairmen were selected for the 10 study committees, and instruction meetings were held to orient the chairmen.

In January of 1967, the study committees started work on the problems that may affect Sherman County in the next 10 years. The purpose of each committee was to take a good look at Sherman county and try to figure a way to make Sherman County a better place to live, work and play in the next 10 years.

On April 21, 1967, the public forum was held to report the findings of the 10 committees. Each committee chairman reported by using visual aids, pictures, etc., to illustrate the recommendations of the committees.

To finish this report, it depends on the people of Sherman County to further study and work toward implementation of these recommendations.

Ted Thompson, Chairman
Sherman Rural Advisory Council

This is the fifth time Sherman County has embarked on a Long-Range Planning Conference. The conferences span nearly one-half century of community planning for progress. The first such conference was held in 1924. Similar conferences were held in 1938, 1948, and 1958.

During the past 10 years, the Sherman Rural Advisory Council has provided leadership in continued planning to improve the economic and social condition of the county. Various subcommittees—such as the Water Resource Development, Land Use and Crops, and Rural Road Advisory Committee—along with the Sherman County Planning Commission have spelled out some of the needs and work toward their accomplishment. This conference besides looking into some new fields of interest in the county, also brings up to date activities of various on-going planning and development groups.

Membership of the Sherman Rural Advisory Council that help guide activities of this conference and groups they represent were: Ted Thompson, Chairman, Grain Co-op representative; Irving Hart, Vice-Chairman, Sherman Planning Commission; Charles Burnet, Wheat Growers Association; Henry Jaeger, 4-H Leaders Assn.; Delta Johnson, Extension Unit Council; Rolland Johnson, Weed Council; Larry Kaseberg, Water Resource Development Committee; Bob Martin, Cattlemen's Association and Chairman of the Livestock and Range Planning Committee; Owietus McDermid, Health Council; Rev. Leo Tautfest, Ministerial Association; Vernon Miller, County Judge; Bob Montgomery, School Superintendent; David Moore, Sherman County Club; David Richelderfer, ASCS Committee; Vernon Root, 4-H Leaders Association; John Shipley, Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors; Don Thompson, Sherman County Granges and Chairman of the Land Use and Crops Planning Committee; F. L. Watkins, Rural Road Advisory Council; Alice Richmond, County Extension Agent, 4-H and Home Economics, and myself.

For more than 40 years, the OSU Cooperative Extension Service, through their County Extension Agent staff and specialists, have cooperated with the citizens of Sherman County in doing long-range planning. If Sherman County is to realize its greatest potential, continual planning to meet changing conditions will be necessary.

Results of the latest planning effort are contained in this publication made possible by the Sherman County Court and the Cooperative Extension Service of Oregon State University.

Thomas W. Thompson, Chairman
Sherman County Extension Agent

SHERMAN COUNTY, OREGON

Sherman County was established February 25, 1889, with an area of 827 square miles. Moro, the county seat, is near the center of the county and is 120 miles by highway from Portland. The trend in population is shown by chart form on page. 7.

Sherman County lies in the heart of the Columbia Basin dryland grain area. Most citizens breathe, eat and talk wheat. The county is strictly rural with agriculture the major industry.

During recent years, mass scale construction of the John Day Dam has brought in new people, payroll and problems. Industrial production is in the planning stage and tourist trade on the upswing. The county is the only forestless Oregon county.

There were more businesses in Sherman County in 1900 than there are today. At the beginning of the century one could buy nearly everything in the county he could purchase elsewhere.

Decline in farm numbers and work force, improved transportation facilities and change in modern business practices have reduced local business establishments. Much of the needs of Sherman Countians are purchased in The Dalles; for southern Sherman Countians, at Madras, or in many cases in Portland.

Surrounding on three and a half sides by water, the county sets high and dry. Rainfall averages are close over the county—Wasco (elevation 1,222 feet) has 11.72 inches, Moro (elevation 1,858) has 11.83 inches, and Kent (elevation 2,707) has 10.83 inches. With this low rainfall, farming is under a summer-fallow-grain rotation.

Irrigation is minor with less than 2,000 acres of pasture and hay under intensive production. High lift irrigation from the Columbia and/or John Day Dam pool is under investigation.

Winter wheat is the most important crop. For 40 years, dryland grain hay was second, but in recent years, due to government farm programs, barley has moved into second in importance.

Fifty-seven percent (299,882) out of 529,280 acres is cultivated—the highest percentage in the state. Only two counties exceed Sherman in total tillable acres. The soil is silt loam, productive, rolling and low in organic matter, making it highly erosive.

Around 1,200 acres of cultivated land is the average farm size. Farm units number near 250, but are declining due to unfavorable farm prices. Farm tenancy is high with about 70% of the land farmed by non-owner operatives.

Beef cattle provide an important supplementary source of income. They utilize native spring, early summer ranges and crop aftermath. Most cattle are sold as weaners but some trend in feedlot production is underway, utilizing wheat and barley as feed grains. Sherman County has no dairies, a good number of horses, and sheep and hogs are of minor importance.

A variety of statistical material is available about the county's people, economy and resources. Various statistical information was used by the study committees but is limited in this publication. Such information is available from county, state, and federal agencies and private institutions.

Public and Economic Affairs

Charles Burnet, Chairman

Thomas M. Thompson, Secretary

In any attempt to forecast future development of an area, a prime consideration should be past history and present conditions.

Agriculture has been the basic industry in Sherman County since the county was first settled by the white man. The principle crop has been grain, mainly wheat with some barley, oats, and hay. The major kind of livestock is cattle, with some sheep and hogs. Milk cows and chickens have declined as farming became more specialized.

Farms in the county have continued to increase in size, with fewer people on the farms, as well as in the towns because of less need for goods and services.

It appears that this tendency toward larger farms and fewer people will continue unless there is some change in the nature of the county's economy. With the use of larger and more efficient machinery, farmers must enlarge their farms in order to have economical operating units. This enlargement of farms has had one beneficial affect in recent years: farm operators have been able to acquire more of the land they farm thus decreasing absentee ownership. There also has been a tendency for more retiring farmers to remain in the county, thus keeping more money in our economy.

Recently there have been developments which could drastically affect the economy. These include the following.

Recreation

With development of parks and roads along the rivers bordering the county we are becoming more attractive to tourists and to residents of western Oregon, and Portland metropolitan areas. The freeway to Portland provides easy access to our area, and there will be an influx of people seeking our fresh air and sunshine.

Irrigation

There is much interest in an irrigation project in the northeast section of the county. This will undoubtedly develop whenever the growing demand for food makes it economically feasible. It could include other areas of the county, also. OSU economists have estimated an increased income as well as population from such a project. Using an area of 40,000 acres it is estimated there would be an increased income of \$10,000,000, and an increase in population of 3,170 people. Some of these people would be employed in service and supply, and could be located in The Dalles.

Industry

Upon completion of the John Day Dam, there is a good chance for industrial development. There is a site in the Rufus area which, with cheap power, plentiful water, and good transportation, could be attractive to industry.

There also will be a permanent operating and maintenance force

employed at the dam. It appears probable that some of these people might establish homes in Sherman County. This should be encouraged.

The rapidly increasing population of the world will greatly affect the agricultural economy of the United States, and Sherman County. It appears that world demand for food is overtaking production surplus. While this will cause many world problems, it can be financially beneficial for the farmers of this country.

With the foregoing in mind, this committee makes the following suggestions and resolutions to the people of Sherman County.

Legislation

● *Labor* —It appears that present minimum wage laws will have little affect in Sherman County. We should, however, be alert to any wage and hour legislation which might have a detrimental affect on our operations.

● *Farm Programs* — Sherman County farmers should be aware of, and closely study all farm legislation. They should especially watch legislation or administrative rulings which might have an adverse affect on them. Farmers should keep their legislators and farm organizations informed of their position on such matters.

Public Relations

Farm population in the U. S. is declining, in proportion with the rest of the population. This is causing the farmer to lose representation in legislatures on both the state and national levels. Therefore, it is important that farm organizations cooperate with one another in order to develop and present a united legislative program.

Improved internal county public relations between town and county is needed. Programs to improve the relations and understandings of one another's business problems needs

to be strengthened. Farm-City Week has been used in some counties as a means of improving town and country relations. Such a program could be effectively used in Sherman County.

● We recommend that farm organizations, the Sherman County Club, and the Sherman County Lions Club consider some type of public relations effort in their yearly program.

● Farmers and farm organizations should make every effort to gain support of related farm businesses for legislation needed by agriculture. Importance of agriculture to the total economy and small share of the consumer's dollar going to farmers needs to be stressed.

● We commend and recommend support of public relations programs by various farm groups, and by such organizations as the newly organized Agri-Business Council of Oregon.

Local Business

Due to declining population and improved transportation to larger trade centers, our local businesses have been in a decline in most lines for many years. There are some areas where it appears small business could do well, and we should encourage their development.

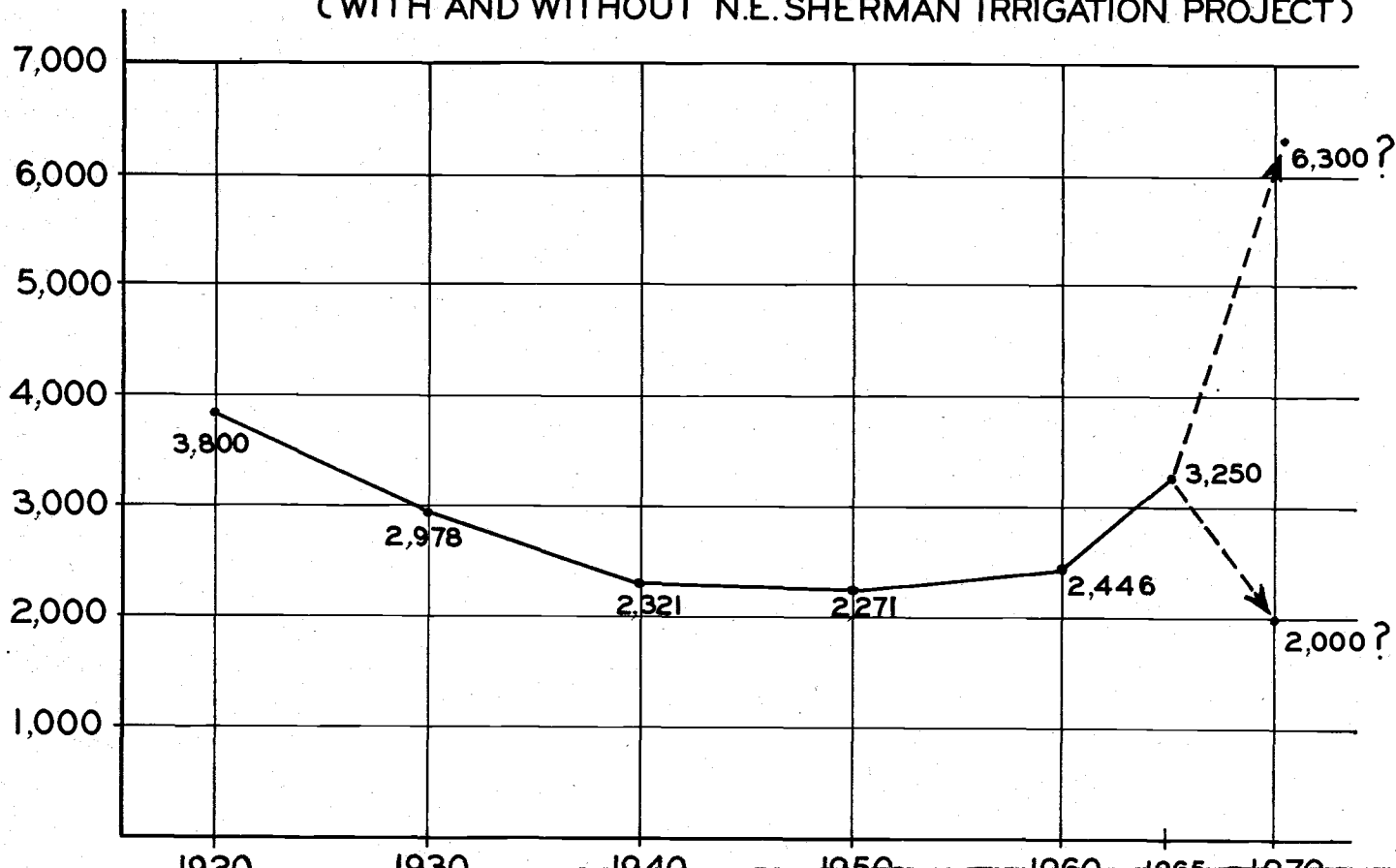
There is a need for service people, such as electricians and plumbers. We also could make use of professional people, such as doctors and dentists. It is difficult and expensive to get these people from other places, although it seems they could prosper here. Also, with development of better highways, increased traffic, and recreation development, it appears there will be a growing need for businesses to serve tourists, the traveling businessman, and recreationists.

Industrial Development

With the completion of the John Day Dam it is anticipated that a prime

SHERMAN COUNTY POPULATION DATA & TREND

(WITH AND WITHOUT N.E. SHERMAN IRRIGATION PROJECT)



industrial site will become available below the dam, at Rufus. An estimate of the cost of this site would be 70 acres at \$300 per acre, or \$21,000. This could be financed by a one-year levy, a serial levy, or by issuing bonds. Sherman County is the only county along the river which has not taken steps to acquire such property. The submerged lands in front of the site, which are owned by the state land board, also should be obtained, if possible. In order to fully develop the site for industry it would be necessary to dredge these submerged lands and use the material for fill, as is being done at Hood River.

● The committee recommends that the Sherman County Court and the county planning commission endeavor to have this area designated as an industrial area by the Army Corps of Engineers. It also is recommended that the county court attempt to acquire the land when it becomes available.

In this way it would be available for industrial development and the county also would be in a position to control such development. A study also should be made as soon as possible to ascertain if the court has the necessary powers for this development, or if a port commission would be desirable.

County Government

At the present time there seems to be no desire for a change in our form of county government. In recent years, several counties have adopted county charter or home rule forms of government.

● We recommend that the operations of these counties be studied, and if there appears to be distinct advantages steps should again be taken to establish such a government in Sherman County.

County Planning Commission

The committee commends this commission for the work they have done in planning for recreational and industrial needs of the county, and encourages continued efforts. The commission should continue work on planning and zoning, placing emphasis on a positive, dynamic plan for better land resource use. A zoning ordinance must be tied to a comprehensive, realistic study of the resources, goals and potentials of the area. An educational program to acquaint people with the need for a land use and zoning program is desirable. It will be necessary to gain the backing and support of the public for this program to be successful. There will be a need for county funds to implement the zoning program upon completion of the land use study.

PUBLIC AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Charles Burnet, Chairman
Thomas W. Thompson, Secretary
Paul Alley
Alex Brander
Bob Davis
Malcolm Eslinger
Irving Hart
Lewis Hastings

Ed Justesen
Paulen Kaseberg
J. K. McKean
Vernon Miller
Marvin Thomas
Stan White
Ex Officio: R. W. Kennedy
Ted Sidor

Community Improvement

Sherry Kaseberg, Chairman

Terry Dugan, Secretary

The success of any community improvement program depends to a great extent upon how fully the community is behind it. This committee feels community improvement is everyone's concern.

Our purpose is to get things rolling, for the recommendations are directed to those persons or organizations best suited to follow-up our study and finds. We hope they will endeavor to promote a better environment for the enjoyment of living.

The committee has spent much time in the gathering of facts and the consideration of various alternatives. We present the following recommendations and urge their adoption.

Libraries

In Sherman County there are two city libraries, five grade school libraries, and one high school library. The city libraries have little or no reference material and do not offer regular hours nor do they offer inviting surroundings. The committee recommends:

- The libraries in Sherman County should consider formation of a county library board and/or a county library.
- City libraries should have Saturday and summer programs to include story telling, reading, records, and puppets to interest youngsters in using library facilities at an early age.
- Libraries at Moro and Wasco should be open at least one night each week.
- Coordination of library acquisitions should allow each library to de-

velop strongly in one field and allow for exchanges between libraries. All books should be properly cataloged.

- All libraries should consider the use of periodicals, films, slides, records, and traveling collections from the state library.
- Wasco should invest in an up-to-date encyclopedia set and more reference books.
- The board of Sherman High School should publicize their position in regard to adults checking books out, and general policy.
- Library atmosphere should be pleasant and inviting.

Museum

An active committee has been diligently working for a museum in Sherman County. To preserve the past for future generations is a very worthwhile goal. The Community Improvement Committee sees a definite need for a county museum. We recommend:

- Consideration by the Sherman County Historical Society to procure a museum site and building should be renewed without delay.
- The Sherman County fairgrounds should be considered as a museum site.
- Funds should be derived from taxes or from donations which the historical society members should investigate and pursue.
- Individuals should be encouraged to save museum items for a county museum.

The Community

The entire nation is aware of the beauty of America. President Johnson stated, "What a citizen sees everyday is his America. If it is attractive, it adds to the quality of his life. If it is ugly, it can degrade his existence."

Residents should be aware of the state of the community beauty in Sherman County. The committee recommends:

- The city councils in Moro, Wasco and Grass Valley should re-establish tree plantings of suitable nature along main streets and consider potted trees.
- Directions for parking in Wasco, Moro and Grass Valley should be designated by city councils.
- City ordinances regarding appearance of city lots should be enforced.
- The county court should take the initiative and recruit organizational help in improving play, sanitary, and camp facilities at DeMoss Springs Park.
- The state highway department should include on their exit signs at Biggs Junction and Celilo the directions to the Deschutes River Park.
- Old, dangerous, and unused buildings should be torn down or repaired and put to use.
- The city council for each town should initiate an annual cleanup day.

- Individuals should strive for neater, cleaner farms and yards.
- The county road department should clean up the road from Wasco to Rufus via Scott Canyon.

Housing

Sherman County has few rental houses of sufficient quality and size for family living. Teachers and construction workers have found it difficult to find satisfactory housing within the past few years. The committee recommends:

- The school boards provide adequate housing for their teachers and families.
- Private individuals be encouraged to build new rental homes in Sherman County towns.

Summary

We all need a better library system and our young people deserve it. A museum will help to preserve the history of Sherman County's beginnings and belongings. A look to the past often helps to direct the future. We are all aware of the need for cleaning up towns and farms, for developing a stronger pride in our county, for making it a better place in which to live. Those persons who live here and teach here deserve a good place to live. We all can help achieve these goals by giving the committee reports sound, sober consideration, and then action!

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Mrs. Larry Kaseberg, Chairman
Terry P. Dugan, Secretary
Denny Anderson
Rev. Arthur Brown
Mrs. Ralph Busse
Loy Cochran

Giles French
Mrs. Gordon Hilderbrand
Mrs. Lee Kaseberg
David Moore
Rev. Leo Tautfest
George Winegar

Recreation and Sports

Irving Hart, Chairman

Thomas W. Thompson, Secretary

To make Sherman County more attractive and enjoyable we need to continually upgrade our area. The development of sports and recreation facilities within the county has been neglected and it is important to our welfare that steps be taken to correct this. As we improve our community we will find a happier, more healthy climate for business, agriculture, and for schools. Labor for farm and all other industry, present and future, will be more available. Educators for our schools will find living here more to their liking, and people will see Sherman County as the place they want for their homes and children.

There are funds available to help these projects. We have built a boat launching facility at Biggs with boat license money, which comes back to the county and is matched with State Marine Board funds. A five-year development plan with the Corps of Engineers on a cost-sharing basis is in progress for the Biggs site. Plans also are being made to develop a county park and boat ramp on the John Day River near Fox Canyon using this same source of funds. Money on a county or city matching basis also is available for development of parks and/or an outdoor swimming pool.

After as complete a study as we could make in the available time, and after counseling with friends and neighbors, we present the following recommendations and urge their adoption.

Park and Recreation Planning

The planning commission, appointed by the county court, has been designated to work with federal and state agencies to plan and develop parks and boating ramps.

● We recommend this policy be continued.

A study was made relative to establishing a park commission but it was decided this function could be handled by the planning commission at this time.

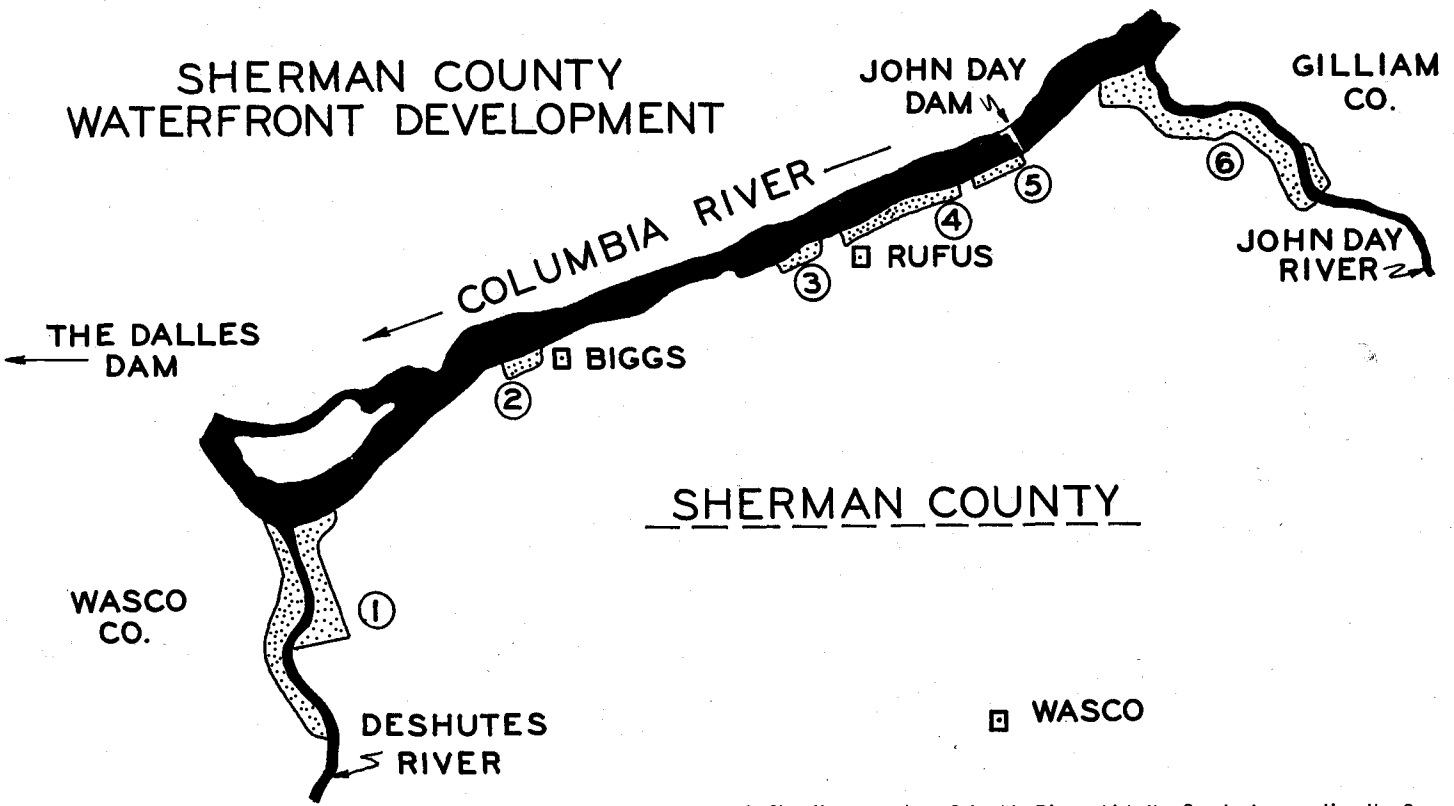
Park Development

● The county should continue development of a park and boat ramp at Biggs.

● The county should continue negotiating with Army engineers regarding a county park in the Fox and Biglow Canyon area of the John Day River.

● The Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers has met with the planning commission and presented the Master Plan dated October, 1965 on a major development at the John Day pool. This plan called for a park of some 880 acres for day use and for overnight camping, complete with boat ramps and docks, concession building, gas station and parking areas. This plan recently has been modified but is scheduled for future development. We recommend that the county planning commission continue work on this project and do all possible to expedite its construction.

SHERMAN COUNTY WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT



LEGEND —

1. Present and future Oregon State Park Development at mouth of Deshutes River in Sherman and Wasco Counties.
2. Proposed Sherman County Park to be developed along Columbia River jointly by County and U. S. Corps of Engineers to be operated by County.
3. Site reserved by Corps of Engineers for park development either by Corps or jointly with County or City of Rufus.

4. Shoreline area along Columbia River which the County is requesting the Corps of Engineers to set aside for future industrial development.
5. Proposed park below the John Day Dam to be developed by the Corps of Engineers upon completion of all phases of construction of the dam about 1972.
6. Area reserved by the Corps of Engineers for recreation development along the John Day River. Development near the mouth of the John Day River will be by the Corps while Sherman County has under study plans for a county park in the upper part with joint development in cooperation with the Corps.

□ WASCO

● The county court and planning commission should see that plans for parks and recreation development in the Rufus area be carried out.

● We recommend DeMoss Park be improved by grading, leveling, and replanting; picnic tables, playground facilities, and toilets should be added. The area should be suitable for a golf driving range which would be welcomed by many devotees of this sport.

● The Bureau of Land Management should be commended for the development on the Deschutes River in Sherman County. We recommend that the extreme fire danger in the area again be called to the attention of BLM authorities. Camping and access should be limited to the area on the river side of the road, and fire fighting equipment should be in the area during the fire season. Where possible, fire barriers should be built above the existing road.

● The BLM has designated 15 areas on the John Day River within Sherman County for future development. Of particular interest now is the development of a camp site in Pine Hollow suitable for youth groups. The BLM has indicated this can be accomplished if access is provided by the county. We recommend this be done.

Tennis Courts

The tennis courts available in the county are not adequate for the physical education program. We understand the high school board has plans to build one or more courts near the school. We urge that this be done.

● We recommend the county cooperate in the use of machinery and material for construction, so far as they are able.

Swimming Pool

We conclude from the results of our study that we should undertake

the building of a pool in connection with the high school for use by all the schools and for general public use. Cost for such a facility is high, but the cost spread over the many years of benefit make it reasonable. For the benefits to physical fitness, to water safety, and to the children of our area, the cost is reasonable. A swim program provides a competitive and healthy sport for both boys and girls. It is a sensible investment in our future.

We thank the Sherman Lions Club for the swimming pool data made available to us in our study. We hope they will continue their efforts and support the building of a swimming pool. We also thank County School Superintendent Bob Montgomery for his help in contacting schools in the state which have swimming programs.

As a result of our study, and in recognition of the great number of people favoring this project, we recommend that:

● The high school board cause a vote to be taken on a special bond issue of \$75,000 for building a pool in conjunction with the high school. This would cost 4.5 mills or about 22½ cents per acre on 200 dollar land.

● Local authorities be called upon to do such work as excavating, leveling, etc., for the greatest possible savings; and

● That these savings be made available toward the cost of covering this pool by another bond issue in 1970.

● By constructing the pool without cover we can save on architectural fees and be eligible for aid from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

● Because cost of maintaining and operating pools of comparable plan ranges from \$6,000 to \$9,000, and from 35% to 50% of this is paid by user fees, these costs be budgeted by the Sherman High School.

Summary

We make these recommendations with full realization of the tax burden we now bear. We suggest that of all the taxes we pay, local taxes for local improvements bring the most satisfaction. No one can deny

the benefits we have and will derive from the special five-year road levy, from the building of our high school and from the building of the fine new grade school in Grass Valley. These items are all tangible assets and we consider the foregoing recommendations in the same category.

RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE

Irving Hart, Chairman
Thomas W. Thompson, Secretary
Art Buether
Stan Coelsch
George Fox
Les Gray
John Hilderbrand
Delta Johnson

Harland McDonald
Rodney Rolfe
Bert Swigart
Don Thompson

Ex-Officio: Gary Woodring
Darrel Jones
Ken Sweeney
Dick May

Youth and Family Life

Catherine Thomas, Chairman

The young people of Sherman County are fortunate in many ways to be growing up in such a community. There are disadvantages, however, and these need to be examined and, if possible, something done about them. This committee has tried to study some areas of concern carefully. The following report contains our findings and recommendations.

Youth Center

There is a need and a desire for a youth center where young people can spend free time in the company of other youth under adult supervision. More than half of the young people in the county are involved in various organizations such as 4-H, Rainbows, etc., but there is no place in the county where youth can spend leisure time in an unstructured, yet supervised environment. Therefore, we recommend:

- That a youth-adult committee be established bringing together those from various parts of the county and representing all segments of the population, i.e., both the "ins" and "outs", the "busy" and the "uninvolved."

- That this committee be composed primarily of young people, perhaps nine with three adults, and be responsible for the direction, supervision, and program of a youth center.

- That this project be given to the Empire Builders along with a service organization such as the Lions Club, to organize the youth-adult committee, and to locate a building. Some possibilities for the building might be: the Hotel Cafe, Moro; 4-H pavilion at the fairground; Dalmor

Equipment building, Moro; or the Odd Fellows Hall, Moro.

- That the program of the center might include: dancing, ping-pong, parlor games, shuffle board, pool, coin operated dispensers for pop, candy, pop corn and whatever else might be seen as desirable by the adult-youth committee.

If the interest is sufficient, or if the population increases enough over the next 10 years, this center could be developed into a recreation center with bowling and other types of family recreation and entertainment.

Swimming Pool

Although this is being considered by the Recreation and Sports Committee, it is the strong feeling of this committee that a swimming pool for school and public use at the high school would be desirable.

New Families

It is believed that more needs to be done to integrate new youngsters and families into the life and the organizations of the schools and communities. We recommend that:

- Present organizations periodically conduct a study of the feelings, problems, and concerns of newcomers to the community, both youngsters and adults, so that all are aware of what is new in a community.

- A listing of all organizations be compiled. This would include the purpose of the organization along with names of persons in charge and their phone numbers, to be compiled for each school and community in the county. These listings would be available to schools to distribute to

new families in each district throughout the year.

- A women's organization in a church in each community be asked to compile this information for their community.

Summer Program for Youngsters

There is little youth activity during the summer months except for those in 4-H, Little League, and Babe Ruth, and these appeal only to certain youngsters and not to others. We recommend that:

- A summer recreation program be planned in Rufus, Wasco, Moro and Grass Valley for youngsters through the eighth grade.

- Directors for this program might be obtained under the Work-Study Program with the Federal government providing about 67% of the salaries for such workers.

- These directors be employed by city governments. If it is too costly to obtain one for each community, one could be shared by two communities with the program provided on alternate days, or on some similar schedule.

- Programs be conducted in parks and other school, club, or church facilities, as needed.

Juvenile Court

There is an increasing need for services of the juvenile court in Sherman County, but there seems to be little public awareness as to its role and function. Therefore, the following recommendations are made by the committee regarding the Sherman County Juvenile Court:

- That the functions of the court be publicized in the community, so the community can become aware of the purposes and limitations of the juvenile court.

- That the duties of the officers of the juvenile court (the juvenile judge, the juvenile counselor, and the district attorney) be clarified so that the community will be aware of the way the court handles cases brought to its attention.

- That the procedures for bringing cases to the juvenile court be explained to the community so that appropriate use of the court may be obtained.

- That the needs of the court, especially for foster homes, be made known to the community so that these needs can be met, thus increasing the effectiveness of the court in dealing with problems of Sherman County youth.

- We further recommend that organizations in the community encourage their membership to learn about the juvenile court and its role in the community.

We feel that it is especially important that the youth of the community be made aware of the juvenile court, and that a program sponsored by the schools and/or Extension Service be established whereby students can meet the officers of the court and learn of the court's role in the community.

Emotional Problems of Youth

The Mental Health Clinic personnel for The Dalles are presently available to our schools one day a month. Those cases referred to them usually receive about three counseling sessions and are then returned to the school and community for care. We do not have properly trained and qualified staff in the county for many of the more serious emotional problems that are encountered. Many go ignored and untreated until they become too difficult to handle. There is need for a psychologist or other highly trained person in the county to serve both school and home.

Culture

In considering the cultural aspects of life in Sherman County, this committee feels there is a need to make available opportunities for artistic expression and development of individual creativeness, as well as to develop an appreciation of the arts. We recommend:

- Since bringing in well-known artists and groups to Sherman County does not appear feasible, more publicity and promotion within the county is needed concerning concerts and cultural events taking place in nearby towns.

- A listing of existing groups (theater groups, arts and crafts clubs, etc.) should be compiled with the

names of persons to contact for information.

- Participation at the county fair through art exhibits and entries of various kinds should be encouraged.

- The schools should be encouraged and helped to cultivate the talents of children and youth in art, music and drama. Individuals talented enough to perform should be given the opportunity by groups to make use of his or her ability.

- Steps should be taken to promote an arts festival in the county. All facets of the arts should be utilized, giving all ages opportunity to use talents and skills.

Senior Citizens

The last census (1965) showed 17.7% in the 55 and over age bracket; 9.2% in the 65 and older group. This accounts for nearly one-fourth of our present population.

Younger people should realize at an early age that Social Security is not sufficient for retirement but is only supplemental income. A realistic savings plan should be developed and followed for old age.

There are services that could be provided to encourage retired people to remain in their homes in Sherman County. Social Security representatives could come to the county one

day each month. Those retired and able to drive could provide for: shopping, doctor appointments, church attendance, and miscellaneous errands.

Several types of jobs could be used to supplement the incomes of older persons. Women could mend, babysit or tutor. Men could do chores, lawn or garden work, minor repairs in the community, and tutor. These could probably be arranged with assistance from the Extension units.

Hobbies, crafts, and avocations could be stimulated through Extension courses, adult education, continuing education, hobby shows, etc.

Home Extension

Extension home economics is an adult program for homemakers. It reflects the needs of contemporary living with emphasis on consumer education, management, and family economics.

At the present time, there are a number of persons in Sherman Coun-

ty that are not being reached through this program. The committee feels that the program should be expanded to include a broader audience. We recommend:

- There is a growing number of programs directed to the homemaker available on educational TV. Those

who are unable to participate in the Extension unit program could take advantage of these programs. The committee would like to see educational TV available throughout the county.

Because of the variety of interests, backgrounds, and stages of the life cycle of the present Extension unit membership, it is felt that not all of the needs of these people are being met. The committee feels that these needs can best be met by the following provisions of the unit program:

- Have five lessons for which agent

training is provided for project leaders.

- Have two lessons developed to meet the interests of the individual units. The agent will help the project leaders in securing references and resources.

- Have more special interest meetings and workshops to encourage countywide participation in areas of special interest.

- The committee also recommends cooperation with other organizations in countywide activities such as health and safety education.

FAMILY AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

Mrs. Dewey Thomas, Chairman

Youth Subcommittee

Rev. Leo Tautfest, Chairman
David Bayer
Mrs. Bob Boynton
Mrs. Joe Heater
Henry Jaeger
Bob Odell
Miss Alice Richmond
Miss Cathy von Borstel

Senior Citizens Subcommittee

Mrs. Walt Bruckert, Chairman
Miss Alice Richmond, Secretary
Mrs. Earl Gentry
Rev. William R. Jones
Wallace May

Cultural Subcommittee

Mrs. Dale Stump, Chairman
Miss Mary Brackett
Father Gerald Condon
Mrs. Bernard Martin
Miss Alice Richmond
Mrs. Frank Sayrs
Leland Schwendel

Home Extension Subcommittee

Mrs. Ed Justesen, Chairman
Miss Alice Richmond, Secretary
Miss Gertrude Buether
Mrs. Arno Chrisman
Mrs. Owen Eakin
Mrs. Lloyd Henrichs
Mrs. Charles Jackson
Mrs. Rolland Johnson
Mrs. Lee Kaseberg
Mrs. Harry Pinkerton
Mrs. Dewey Thomas
Mrs. Sam Tsubota

Health and Safety

Owietus McDermid, Chairman

Sherman County has been fortunate in that it has not been afflicted with many of the health and safety problems prominent in other parts of the state. The committee feels this is due to the interest and constant vigilance of the county citizens. If this record is to be maintained, this vigilance, with expanded efforts, will be needed.

The lack of professional health and safety personnel in the county is disturbing. This situation is likely to remain until the population is large enough to support such services.

The Sherman County Health Advisory Council is an established organization of interested individuals concerned with the health and safety of the county. The council meets once a month with the county health officer to discuss problems and pos-

sible solutions. It has sponsored and successfully programmed Salk polio shots, Sabin vaccine, TB tests and X-ray clinics. It is to be commended for these efforts.

Sherman County now receives services and benefits of the Wasco-Sherman Public Health Department and the Mid-Columbia Mental Health Clinic. The services provided are too numerous to detail. A **Summary of Services** is available from the Wasco-Sherman Public Health Department in The Dalles.

As a result of the study carried out by this committee, a knowledge of the health and safety problems of county citizens has developed. An action program should be initiated and carried out to solve these problems.

Areas of Health Concern

Sewage Treatment

Inadequate sewage disposal is of present concern to townspeople, as well as to those passing through our communities. The sewage now flows down small streams and ditches, past towns. A survey, conducted by the State Department of Sanitation, has made recommendations to the city councils.

● This committee recommends that these proposals receive prompt consideration.

Garbage Collection

Supervision of community garbage facilities is lacking. Garbage is dumped in city-provided places and burned. However, some persons still

strew garbage along the roadways and dump without thought of the wind blowing it over the countryside. It is not economically feasible for private industry to operate a dump and collection service. According to Oregon statutes, it is possible for such a facility to be operated under the jurisdiction of the county court. The charge for weekly pick-up service would off-set the expense enabling operation costs to be low.

● The committee recommends that the Sherman County Court ask that a detailed study be made as to garbage disposal costs, locations, etc. Using this as a basis, the court could then act to improve garbage collection services.

Mental Health Services

Two staff members of the Mid-Columbia Mental Health Clinic in The Dalles now make a visit once a month in the county for consultations with school administrators, and the high school guidance counselor. They work on a referral basis, and their services are available to anyone in the county. There is not a full-time professional in this field located within the county. Figures compiled by the State Mental Health Division show 383 people in Sherman County who have suffered some sort of emotional or mental disorder. (This figure includes "mild" problems of adjustment in youngsters and adults, as

well as more serious impairment). There is need for a psychologist or other highly trained person to work with emotional problems before they become serious.

Visiting Nurse

● The committee recommends that the county court investigate means of employing a county visiting nurse. This nurse would make the following services available in the county: the giving of injections, such as for allergies; treatments for the confined; visits to the aged, and instruction in bed care and exercise programs; changing of bandages; and instruction for families in the home care of patients.

Areas of Safety Concern

Fire

The safety of volunteer firemen, and their use of fire fighting equipment is of concern to this committee. The committee understands there is a training course for volunteer firemen available through the Division of Continuing Education.

● The committee recommends that the volunteer fire departments investigate this possibility and make use of this service, if and when it is available.

Consideration should be given to the formation of a countywide fire district, if this would insure greater fire protection and an easement in fire insurance rates. Posting fire danger signs during the dry summer months would warn visitors as well as residents of the extreme danger from fires.

Farm and Home Safety

Each year many serious and often fatal accidents occur due to lack of safe practices around the farm and home. It is necessary to bring these

hazardous practices to the public's attention. Cooperation among organizations who are continually concerned with safety would make a bigger impact, and could help eliminate some of the farm and home hazards. A countywide safety committee could coordinate and implement a safety education program.

● The committee recommends that the Rural Advisory Council study the establishment of such a committee.

Highway and Recreation

During harvest, slow moving trucks hauling grain pose a real threat to highway safety.

● It is recommended that signs be posted at all dangerous intersections to warn motorists of slow moving trucks. The county court, Sherman County Club, and grain cooperatives should see that these signs are posted.

One of the best preventive measures in water safety is learning to swim. The committee commends the Red Cross for its swimming program.

The increase in water activities in the county, due to the John Day Dam, increases the need for instruction in boating and other forms of water recreation safety.

Civil Defense

● The committee recommends continued support of the county civil defense program.

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Don McDermid, Chairman
Mrs. Harry Pinkerton, Secretary
Mrs. Robert Bish
Luther Davis
Mrs. Ed Justesen
L. E. Kaseberg
Mrs. Bill Kramer
Vernon Miller
Bob Montgomery

Mrs. Bill Pausch
Mrs. Walter Reed
Miss Alice Richmond
Marvin Robertson
Vernon Smith
Mrs. Marvin Thomas

Ex Officio: Dr. E. E. Berg
Irv Rierson

Education

Dean Pinkerton, Chairman

Bob Montgomery, Secretary

The Education Committee began its study by a review of past committee recommendations. Charged with the need for establishing new objectives in a period of rapid change in our economy and technology, we found little change had occurred in the last decade in Sherman County schools.

Reorganization has resulted in a reduction of districts from a high of 44 to a present 6, one high school district for all of the county, and 5 common elementary districts. The recommendation of the 1957 county committee for the reorganization of school districts stated that they felt this represented adequate reorganization in Sherman County. Yet, this county is the only one in Oregon that has made no change in district reorganization since 1957, with the exception of those counties already down to one or two districts.

Crook, Lincoln, Morrow, and Hood River counties have reorganized into one administrative district. This is the apparent pattern for small counties of low population, and we should look at this prospect fairly to see if it would benefit our students. To many people it suggests a loss of local control. Henry Toy, National Citizens Council for Better Schools, has said, "You will have to recognize those jobs which need doing but which can't be done on a small district basis. You will have to find ways through cooperative efforts to do those things in consort that you cannot do alone. Pure local control, isolated district by district, is a thing of the past. It was designed for a rural America and cannot cope with

the problems of an urban, mobile, and everchanging society."

The education committee of the 1948 planning conference suggested adoption of a school system of one six year high school and four elementary schools as the most economic program for the county. Twenty years later this could still be recommended as the best county organization, if economy and efficiency are the only criteria to be considered. Our committee feels that understanding and support of the people is as necessary to a good school system, and that this is not currently present in sufficient force to recommend county unification.

In these committee discussions, it has been apparent that there is no central planning, no common goals or objectives, nor no locally accepted and understood philosophy of education currently present in county-wide school program development. The committee believes that before such long-range planning can be effective, the current status of the school system needs to be defined. We need to understand where we are before we make changes. To this end, the committee has placed the greatest emphasis in its recommendations on the need for professional appraisal of our schools, to survey and evaluate our current system.

● We recommend that the University of Oregon's Bureau of Educational Research and Service be employed to make a survey of the school system in Sherman County, and to evaluate our program. Funds for this

survey should be provided in the 1967-68 I.E.D. budget. The committee feels that this professional report would provide a better basis for fitting our school program to future needs than anything yet available.

● We recommend that the prospects of unifying the county into one administrative school district should be continually studied by directors and patrons of the schools. A distinction needs to be maintained between unification, which is primarily administrative change, and consolidation, which would mean merging schools. Consideration should be given to the fact that in a long-range view an industry or irrigation project bringing population increases to the county would drastically affect the financial structure of any one district involved.

If the county were a unified district, the expense of educating new students would be borne by the entire county, and in return the valuation of the new industry or project would be added to the county as a whole, to benefit all schools and taxpayers.

● We recommend an increase in basic school support as a more equitable way to support education. Statewide sources of income, whether from an income or a sales tax, would reach taxpayers not now contributing to local schools, and would relieve the property taxpayer of bearing the increasingly heavy load of school support.

● We recommend that adult and continuing education be handled as in the past. Arrangements may be made by either the I.E.D. or high school superintendents when sufficient interest on a specific subject is indicated. Instructors should be hired and classes arranged according to need and availability. Costs should be borne by tuition or in cases of general need, by the I.E.D. budget.

● We recommend that county school

boards investigate greater use of teacher aides. Teachers should be permitted to spend a larger percentage of their time in actual teaching, with aides taking over non-teaching and helping roles.

● We recommend a countywide effort to install educational TV and make it available to all schools. The North Sherman TV Cooperative can provide the installation and maintenance of an adequate system. Financial planning should follow the Public Television Act of 1967 now before the Congress, which if passed, would provide 75% matching money to plan and establish educational television and radio stations.

● We recommend that if a Mid-Columbia Community College is formed, it be oriented toward vocational-technical training.

● We recommend that our schools expose our children to experiences and environments outside our county. A need is seen for the movement of children and teachers into the world of music and art, museums, theaters, art galleries, industrial plants, slums, forests, and sea coasts to learn as they explore.

● We recommend work-experience programs for teen-age youth, planned, operated, and financed by schools, businesses, farms and employee groups to give youth the chance to learn how to work; to experience the satisfactions of responsibility, contributing, staying with a task, and earning an income. Our youth must be prepared to enter work and social life in urban centers far different from that of Sherman County.

● We recommend interschool visitations by teachers, administrators, directors and patrons, both inside and outside the county. This is a simple and inexpensive way to work toward more uniformity within the county and to become acquainted with innovations and materials in education.

**OREGON
NET EFFECTIVE BUYING
INCOME PER CAPITA—1965**

County		Rank
Sherman	\$2801	1
Multnomah	2796	2
Gilliam	2786	3
Washington	2686	4
Benton	2442	5
Clackamas	2342	6
Lake	2315	7
Lane	2300	8
Clatsop	2252	9
Klamath	2246	10
Marion	2243	11
Grant	2221	12
Wasco	2220	13
Morrow	2209	14
Jackson	2187	15
Umatilla	2178	16
Curry	2156	17
Deschutes	2121	18
Crook	2090	19
Josephine	2088	20
Coos	2077	21
Tillamook	2069	22
Union	2038	23
Lincoln	2022	24
Hood River	1996	25
Douglas	1965	26
Baker	1945	27
Yamhill	1940	28
Polk	1897	29
Linn	1879	30
Harney	1834	31
Jefferson	1827	32
Wallowa	1799	33
Columbia	1796	34
Wheeler	1755	35
Malheur	1643	36
State Average	\$2369	

Source: Sales Management, June, 1966. Prepared by Elvera Horrell, Extension Agricultural Economist (Statistics), Oregon State University, 4/10/67

**OREGON
SCHOOL LEVY AS % OF
PROPERTY VALUE 1965-66**

County		Rank
Washington	1.93 %	1
Clackamas	1.88 %	2
Lane	1.88 %	3
Columbia	1.87 %	4
Yamhill	1.85 %	5
Benton	1.79 %	6
Coos	1.79 %	7
Curry	1.75 %	8
Deschutes	1.73 %	9
Clatsop	1.56 %	10
Polk	1.55 %	11
Grant	1.53 %	12
Harney	1.52 %	13
Jackson	1.51 %	14
Marion	1.51 %	15
Linn	1.46 %	16
Multnomah	1.46 %	17
Hood River	1.45 %	18
Crook	1.43 %	19
Wasco	1.42 %	20
Josephine	1.39 %	21
Union	1.39 %	22
Umatilla	1.37 %	23
Malheur	1.29 %	24
Tillamook	1.29 %	25
Douglas	1.25 %	26
Klamath	1.10 %	27
Lincoln	1.08 %	28
Wheeler	1.06 %	29
Lake	1.03 %	30
Jefferson	0.99 %	31
Wallowa	0.92 %	32
Sherman	0.90 %	33
Baker	0.89 %	34
Morrow	0.86 %	35
Gilliam	0.80 %	36

Source: Oregon State Department of Education, 1965-66. Summary of School District Valuations and Taxes, November, 1966

Summary

It is time to make an educational inventory in the county. What are we doing, how are we doing it, is it what we should be doing; are there better methods? How much participation has there been by school patrons in the development of these programs? Are we training our students adequately for their purposes, and are their needs going to stay the same, or change? Is there any way we can be sure that if we change our school programs, we will benefit?

The basic resources for good education are present in Sherman Coun-

ty. We have teachable children—most educators note the lack of any hard core juvenile delinquency. Our teacher-pupil ratio is substantially below average, producing as ideal a teacher-to-student relationship in classrooms as possible. Our financial resources are almost without equal—we have the highest income per capita in Oregon and our tax rate is nearly the lowest, 33rd among the 36 counties.

If we fit all these together properly, we could have an outstanding small school program for our children.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Dean Pinkerton, Chairman
Bob Montgomery, Secretary
Hans Bardenhagen
Ivan Blagg
John Buether
Curlie DeMoss
Mrs. Kenneth Hart
George Jensen

Mrs. Lee Kaseberg
Mrs. Don Macnab
Millard Melzer
Miss Alice Richmond
Mrs. Rodney Rolfe
Rev. Leo Tautfest
Larry Thompson
Mrs. George von Borstel

Marketing and Transportation

F. L. Watkins, Chairman

Max Barzee, Secretary

Marketing patterns and transportation methods are in a process of rapid change. Loss of the railroad, and damage to state and county roads during the December, 1964 flood precipitated much of this change. Decline in grain supply by world wheat de-

mand, and adjustment of farm programs has also influenced the current situation. The Marketing and Transportation Committee studied these recent changes and has attempted to forecast various aspects of this field into the future.

Roads

Road construction and paving on state and county roads during the past 10 years has materially improved transportation facilities. The state highway department and county court are to be commended for improvements to date. Additional and continued road improvement, however, is still needed.

State Highways

The county is transversed by two major state-federal highways: U. S. 30, now 80N, along the Columbia River, and U. S. 97, extending from north to south through the middle of the county. 80N is now a four-lane freeway, and much of U. S. 97 has been improved.

Two other important state roads are No. 216, from Grass Valley to Tygh Valley, and No. 206, the Wasco-Heppner highway from Deschutes River via Wasco to the John Day River in Cottonwood Canyon.

We recommend the following road program for the years ahead:

- Immediate improvement of Highway 97 from Walker Hill to the mouth of Spanish Hollow; also improvement of the section north of Grass Valley in the vicinity of the Kee and King

ranches. The loss of the Grass Valley branch of the Union Pacific Railroad has put additional stress on state highway facilities for movement of grain to river facilities. Much of the present unimproved section of Highway 97 is dangerous for travel, and needs improvement. The Sherman County Court, Sherman County Club, and farm organizations should make every effort to facilitate this recommendation.

- That the state highway department fund further improvements needed on State Secondary 206 by improving and upgrading the guard rails width, and curves in Cottonwood Canyon.

- Sherman County Court continue to have the Scott Canyon road taken over by the state highway department since it is used so heavily for through traffic.

- The state highway department maintain the Biggs-Rufus, old Highway 30 road.

- Improved signing of roads serving major intersections off U. S. 80N into Sherman County.

- Truck weighing stations be maintained in the Biggs area to serve county as well as state roads.

County Roads

Major progress has been made in county road construction and paving during the past few years. Recommendations of this committee in 1958, and the program of the special road committee have been essentially

achieved. The five-year road levy ending June 30, 1968, coupled with general road and FAS funds, have made these improvements possible.

The five-year road levy provided for the following paving and construction:

ROAD PAVING AND CONSTRUCTION IN SHERMAN COUNTY

Type of Road	Miles	Completion Status
Wasco—Rufus Road	6.6	Completed
Fairgrounds to Lone Rock.....	2.7	Completed
Wasco East	4.5	Completed
Kent East	3.0	Scheduled for 1967

Reconstruction to Standards for Future Oiling

Foss Corner to Roots Junction.....	3.0	Completed
Barzee Road to Base Line.....	1.5	Completed
Hay Canyon Road.....	5.5	3 mi. to complete '67-'68
Base Line to Foss Corner.....	2.0	not completed

Reconstruction Road

Bourbon road east and 1 mile north.....	5.0	Completed
Gordon Ridge road—Anderson's south....	4.5	Completed
Dean Pinkerton's south to junction.....	3.5	Completed
Rosebush to Eakin Elevator road.....	3.0	Completed
Erskine Elevator—L. Sayrs to Erskine....	.75	Completed
Amidon-Newton (west end).....	1.25	Not completed
Base Line road—east to Hay Canyon.....	4.0	Completed
Dean Pinkerton corner—east road.....	1.25	Completed
Nichols-Ross road	2.5	Scheduled for '67-'68

Funds for a year and a half remain to finish the proposed program.

The road department and the court anticipate the program will be completed by the end of the tax year, June 30, 1968. Besides the five-year \$45,000-per-year levy, amounting to \$225,000, additional monies from the general road fund and FAS matching money in the amount of \$525,000, for a total of \$750,000, were needed to complete the five-year program.

A county road survey made in 1965 provides statistics on road mileage by class, and projected cost of road improvement needed to bring county roads up to minimum state highway standards. Most of the improvements have been completed on arterial roads and some improvements on feeder and local roads.

**FUTURE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS
SHERMAN COUNTY**

	Miles	Projected Cost for Improvements
Arterial	25.7	\$ 128,000
Feeder	109.24	812,000
Local	322.25	765,000
TOTAL	457.19	\$1,705,000

We recommend:

- Continuation of a special road levy after June 30, 1968.
- A goal of 30 miles of new paved roads and reconstruction of additional miles of road as money allows. Future work should be aimed at a program of reconstruction and paving in one project.
- Attention be given to general maintenance with monies in the general fund used for this purpose. As we upgrade our roads, additional monies must be provided for follow-up maintenance.
- A yearly special road levy of \$60,000 to provide a level of reconstruction and paving as has been done in the past three and one-half years to relieve pressure on general maintenance.
- That the county remain on FAS standards, or as near as possible for new paving. Weight load limits may

be needed on paved or gravel roads according to weather and transportation methods.

- That shoulder slopes on new roads be tapered so they will not cave off, regardless of existing fence or right-of-way. Shaped banks should be seeded to grass before fences are rebuilt. Farmers also are encouraged to take advantage of shaping road banks by the county when building new fences for grass seeding.
- Continued and improved weed programs for annuals and perennials along county roads. Detailed outline of the program is included in the weed control subcommittee of the Land Use and Crops Committee.
- Continuation of the special road committee of the Sherman Rural Advisory Council to develop a new five-year road program in conjunction with the county court's consideration of the above recommendations

Grain Grades and Quality

Sherman grain producers need to pay continual attention to production of quality grain. The next few years will see even greater necessity for quality production to meet the changing competitive domestic and foreign demand. With this in mind we recommend:

- Grain cooperative firms and farm storage operators maintain quality in storage by preventing mixtures of classes, varieties and grades of grain. The future may see additional grain

types—hybrids and new feed grains—that will need to be separated from grains going into the domestic or foreign food markets.

- That continued emphasis be placed on grain sanitation programs for control of insect pests, rodents, and birds on farms, and in commercial storage.
- Farm organizations continue to push for a 58 lb. No. 1 soft white club wheat.

- That improved methods of grain samples be investigated, and more caution be exercised in obtaining grain samples at commercial elevator facilities.
- Increased cooperation among cooperatives in handling of grain to increase volume and allow blending for upgrading test weight and overall grade.

Market Information

A variety of market information on agriculture commodities is available to Oregon producers. Listing of grain marketing information releases available to Sherman growers and handlers from OSU and USDA were reviewed by the committee, and are available on request. Such material reviewed weekly is valuable in analyzing market activity.

We recommend:

- Copies of the weekly USDA and OSU weekly market reports be mailed to all Sherman County farmers for their study, and with an invitation for them to be placed on other mailing lists. We further recommend that all grain producers utilize this service and, along with the other information provided, become more familiar with market activity and

trends. We also recommend that agencies responsible for market information releases upgrade the timing of pertinent market data for producers.

- That the OSU Extension Service organize a one-day shortcourse on grain and livestock futures.
- That local radio stations at The Dalles provide daily market news reports. We encourage continuation of this public service and suggest OSU and USDA provide similar data to the Pasco area.
- That the Sherman Extension office try out a system of posting the average weekly grain prices at Portland in the hallway of the courthouse for inspection by growers. Cooperative firms also are encouraged to try out this system.

Marketing Service Organizations

Cooperative grain firms have successfully served the county since the 1930's. The program has been invaluable and of financial benefit to growers. Loss of the railroad, changes in government programs, and the cost price-squeeze have thrown a shadow over coop operations. The committee reviewed cooperative storage facilities and the possibilities of closer cooperation for the financial benefit of all producers.

Statistics from the four cooperative grain firms and estimates of farm storage indicate nearly twice as much capacity as the average annual production of both wheat and barley. Most of the storage is up-county, due to past-service of the railroad. With the loss of the railroad and the movement of grain by truck to river facilities, additional grain storage along the river may be required.

SHERMAN COUNTY GRAIN STORAGE CAPACITY (1)

Facilities	Bushels	Facilities Value
Sherman Cooperative Grain Growers		
Biggs	350,000	
Rufus	200,000	
Wasco	710,000	
Klondike	685,000	
	<hr/> 1,945,000	\$1,230,000
Moro Grain Growers Association		
Moro	680,000	
Hay Canyon	966,000	
Erskine	150,000	
DeMoss	373,000	
Biggs	220,000	
	<hr/> 2,389,000	\$1,630,000
Grass Valley Grain Growers		
Grass Valley	1,380,000	
Bourbon	200,000	
Kent	792,000	
	<hr/> 2,372,000	\$1,100,000
Eakin Cooperative Grain Growers		
Farm Storage (2)	114,000	\$ 100,000
	<hr/> 1,000,000	unknown
TOTALS	<hr/> 7,820,000	\$4,060,000

- (1) Data compiled by Sherman County Extension Agent from information provided by the few cooperative grain firms February, 1967.
- (2) Farm storage capacity is an estimate of about 60 farms that have from 2,000 to several thousand bushel storage. Data compiled by Sherman County Extension Agent with help of Ralph Busse, ASCS Office and Sherman Wheat Grower League Committee January, 1967.

**AVERAGE TOTAL FARM PRODUCTION IN BUSHELS
SHERMAN COUNTY (1)**

Years	Wheat	Barley	Total Bushels
1948-53	3,732,000	132,000	3,864,000
1954-59	3,128,000	1,422,000	4,550,000
1960-66	3,058,000	1,251,000	4,309,000

- (1) Data compiled by Sherman County Extension Agent from OSU Cooperative Extension Service Agricultural Economist and Statistical Report Service, USDA, Portland, February, 1967.

Methods of closer cooperation between cooperative grain firms was given as complete a study as possible. Pooling of grain along with a separate transportation coop organization serving all cooperatives was given consideration. With the uncertainty of what action to take, we undertook a survey of all producers in the county to determine their sentiment toward having closer cooperation between cooperative firms.

Results of the survey from 45% of the operators equally distributed over the county, are as follows:

1. Would you favor more coordinated effort among the cooperative organizations as to transportation, grain pooling, etc.?

Yes—78% No—8% Undecided—12%

2. Would you favor an independent economic study as to advantages and disadvantages of merging the four cooperative grain firms?

Yes—76% No—15% Undecided—9%

On the basis of our study and from the results of the farmer questionnaire we recommend:

● Consideration be given to a truck cooperative for the four cooperative grain firms. Preliminary analysis by the OSU Agricultural Economics Department indicates there may be an economic advantage for such action.

● The boards of directors of the four cooperative grain firms take into account the results of this survey and obtain the services of an independent firm or agency to conduct an economic analysis as to the advantages and disadvantages of merging the four cooperative grain firms.

● That, if the cooperative boards desire, the OSU Cooperative Extension Service call an information meeting for the boards of directors to discuss the procedure, firms or agencies available, and cost for an economic analysis.

MARKETING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

F. L. Watkins, Chairman
Max Barzee, Secretary
John Beuther
Owen Eakin
Tommy Eakin
Lloyd Gosson
Mac Hall
Gordon Harper
Joe Heater

John Hilderbrand
Bill Jefferies
Malcolm McKinney
Millard Melzer
Vernon Miller.
Rodney Rolfe
Dewey Thomas
Ted Thompson
Thomas W. Thompson

Water Resource Development

Larry Kaseberg, Chairman

Thomas W. Thompson, Secretary

The Sherman Water Resource Development Committee, since its beginning in 1964, has been actively engaged in the study of water development. Particular attention has been given to determining possible irrigation areas; summarizing land acreages at different elevations; investigating the feasibility of particular projects, types of legal organizations available for sponsoring irrigation development, and type of crops which can be grown; reserving irrigation pumping sites, and investigating ground water potential.

Sherman County, lying on the east side of the Cascade Mountains, has the continental climate of the Intermountain Region. Rarely do abnormally hot or cool spells persist for more than a few days at a time. During warm summer months, daytime humidity is low, with average number of hours of sunshine high. Low annual rainfall is characteristic with

about half falling from November through February. Annual totals vary from 17.17 inches to 4.63 inches.

Water for drinking and other household uses ordinarily is obtained from wells dug or drilled to a depth of 20 to 700 feet. On most ranches shallow wells predominate, but deep drilled wells are becoming more common. Springs and artesian wells furnish water for a few homesteads.

Perennial and intermittent streams are a major source of water for livestock. Water for stock also is supplied by artificial ponds that collect runoff.

Irrigation

Irrigation is not common in the county, primarily because of limited supply of water on the uplands. Most irrigation is along main streams, such as the John Day River. Irrigation from deep wells is increasing but not to a great extent.

TREND IN IRRIGATED ACREAGES

	1939	1949	1954	1959	1964
Irrigated land in farms		322	602	1505	1395
Irrigated cropland harvested	194	206	358	665	673
Orchards	118	78	95	45	43
Irrigated Pasture		6	244	840	795

Construction of the John Day Dam has created the possibility of using Columbia River water for supplemental irrigation of Sherman County dryland wheat farms. This new structure can not only provide slack water for irrigation, but also an opportunity for lower power rates and crop diversification.

Initial investigation has shown the Emigrant-Biglow area of northeast Sherman County the most likely

place for early development of an irrigation project. Some 50,000 acres could be reached by high-lift irrigation from Lake Umatilla slack water. The Walla Walla Corps of Engineers has assured the county irrigation pumping sites to serve this section of the county. Feasibility of this project, and the adaptability of marketable crops are both under various stages of investigation.

Owners and operators in northeast

Sherman County have embarked on a voluntary contribution program to finance a private engineering and feasibility study. Directors elected to pursue the project have organized into a group called N. E. Sherman Irrigation, Inc. The excellent response to this project has resulted in securing most of the funds needed to handle the preliminary investigation.

A variety of resource persons have assisted the group, and many sources of information have been studied. More information and research are still needed. With this in mind we recommend that:

- Owners and operators in the northeast Sherman area contract for a privately financed engineering and feasibility study. Such a study will give basis for an individual analysis of the project, and will determine whether it would be a profitable venture at this time.

- Directors of N. E. Sherman Irrigation, Inc., coordinate an intensive educational program on the various aspects of the engineering and feasibility analysis to insure complete understanding of any proposed development.

- A thorough study be made of legal water development districts and educational programs to acquaint citizens on the advantages and disadvantages of each type.

- OSU continue investigation of adaptable crops, productivity, quality and water requirement for the area north and east of Wasco. We further recommend initiation of irrigated cropping trials at the Sherman station to provide information about higher elevations for future irrigation development.

- Remaining county elevation acreage be classified, as has been completed in the northern part of the county.

Ground Water Survey

Sherman County primarily obtains its water supply from wells. Little is known about the majority of existing wells, or the possibility of obtaining sufficient water for irrigation from new well sources.

- We recommend the county work towards securing a cooperative county, state and federal ground water study.

- We suggest, and will initiate a questionnaire to Sherman residents to obtain further information on well locations, and other supplemental data.

- We recommend, and will obtain available well information from the State Engineer's office.

- We recommend the county obtain a listing of people available to test wells.

- We recommend that the county give its full cooperation in obtaining and supplying this information for betterment of the county.

Soil Conservation Projects

Sherman County has few areas where SCS 566 project would be economically feasible. One is located in the Grass Valley and Rosebush Canyon area.

- The committee recommends further study of this area for multiple purpose construction, covering not only erosion, but also pollution, wildlife, recreation, irrigation, and general water storage.

Pumping Sites

Sherman County has a great deal at stake in its future development along the rivers and their tributaries. With this in mind we recommend that:

- Proposed irrigation pumping sites be retained.

- Information be available on the

possible irrigation, industry and domestic uses of water.

- Priority of water for agriculture processing plants be observed.
- Water quality control be retained.
- Pollution be prohibited.
- Establishment of conflicting industries be discouraged.

State and Federal Projects

Through the efforts of this committee and the Sherman County Court, the county is listed on the John Day Basin Corps of Engineers' proposed study on flood control and conservation.

- This committee recommends that the county court and water resource committee be informed of state, corps, and federal projects involving the county's land and water.

Long Range Forecast

Sherman County has a great future ahead with water available being backed up by the John Day Dam into the John Day River. Increased development of water usage, primarily in irrigation, could affect the entire economic and social structure of the county.

This project could, on a projected basis, produce \$279,300 per 1,000 acres. The population increase would indicate an increase of 1,660 more people employed, and an increase in population of 3,170 people.

- We recommend continuation of the Water Resource Development Committee, and the continual investigation, study, and development of programs to utilize to the fullest opportunities for water development.

WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Larry Kaseberg, Chairman
John Buether, Vice-Chairman
Thomas W. Thompson, Secretary
Bob Boynton
Chet Coats
Gordon Hilderbrand
Rolland Johnson
Gordon Lemley

Bob Olsen
Bill Rolfe
Keith Thompson
George von Borstel

Ex Officio: Bill Forrest
Donel Lane
Glenn Tracy

Livestock and Range

Bob Martin, Chairman

Terry Dugan, Secretary

The Livestock and Range Committee is concerned with the opportunities for supplying protein food for the increased population anticipated in Oregon and throughout the nation.

At the present time, Sherman County has 12,000 cows and calves, 1,000 sheep, and 800 hogs. Although livestock and range is secondary to grain production in the county, it contributed nearly 17% of the total 1966 cash farm income. The 1966 value of all livestock and livestock products sold amounted to \$1,062,000.

Livestock and Range Committee members feel new practical management and marketing practices should be adopted by the livestock industry. The committee also feels adoption of the following recommendations will benefit Sherman County citizens as well as being of direct benefit to livestock producers in future years.

The committee recommends:

Beef Cattle

- Producers acquire or keep the most efficient cattle through production testing.
- Controlling heat cycles by the use of estrogen compounds has great potential; it should be explored and tested.
- The use of artificial insemination to produce high quality, uniform calves needs to be started in the county.
- Freeze branding for identification purposes needs to be demonstrated locally.
- Vaccination for specific diseases, including vibriosis, leptospirosis, and

infectious bovine rhinotracheitis should be continued.

- External parasites can best be controlled by the use of the dipping vat.

- Education programs should be conducted by the Extension Service on parasite and disease control in beef cattle.

- A high nitrogen level being added to cropland will produce the following needs for beef cattle producers:

- (1) Nitrate poisoning needs to be watched.

- (2) Vitamin A will need to be supplemented as a normal practice.

- Vitamin E deficiency in Sherman County cattle may become prevalent causing white muscle disease.

- The calcium and phosphorus balance needs to be supplemented in a year-round feeding program.

- Financing in the future should be stressed as it will become increasingly important. Some of the following ideas will make it easier to secure financing:

- (1) Most financial institutions will require financing at one location.

- (2) Records on current and past operations help in obtaining loans.

- (3) A budget will be needed to justify loans.

- (4) New electronic data processing record keeping systems will help individuals keep adequate records.

- (5) Individuals will be judged on their demonstrative record of honesty, dependability and integrity.

- (6) Farming should be looked on as a business and treated as such.

Hogs

- Hog numbers need to be enlarged because hog production offers the greatest potential for expansion of the livestock industry in Sherman County.
- Production tested boars need to be obtained so the emphasis on the meat-type hog will prevail.
- New and improved methods of hog production such as using slat floors need to be encouraged.

Horses

- Horses need to be upgraded and buying of purebred horses instead of grade stock should be encouraged.
- A general training session periodically conducted by the Extension Service in horse parasites and nutrition would help owners better understand the requirements of horses.
- Interstate shipment of horses should be more strictly regulated for disease prevention purposes.

Range

Approximately 42 per cent of the acreage of the county is in range. Of this, about 37 per cent produces usable forage. The rest consists of rock slides, dunes, and riverwash. Most of the acreage occurs along the Deschutes and John Day rivers, along drainage ways to these rivers, and in areas where soils are shallow in the southern portion of the county.

The range in Sherman County differs from many other areas in that it is truly grassland, and broadleaved herbs and shrubs are insignificant as forage plants. In the past, cattle have utilized nearly 200,000 acres of native rangeland in the county each year.

To a large extent, the range resources have been characterized by inefficient management. In Sherman County, the greatest single potential for increasing efficiency of range

livestock production is in development, improvement and proper utilization of forage resources.

Investments in range improvements frequently offer much greater returns to investments than many accepted expenditures of a range livestock operator. The committee recommends:

- The Extension Service survey total range potential and initiate experimental grass seedings in order to find the most suitable grasses for Sherman County range areas.
- Special agricultural stabilization and conservation practices that are available for range improvements be used to help in cost sharing.
- Improved water storage methods such as water traps and plastic pipes be used where practical.
- Fertilizer not be used on native grass ranges since it is not economically feasible or desirable.
- The Extension Service help range livestock producers utilize range more effectively through better timing of grazing.
- Marginal cropland be analyzed by owners and possibly seeded to permanent pasture.
- Cooperative sage spraying between individuals be encouraged to cut costs.
- A range management advisory board be set up to coordinate activities of various agencies concerned with the range resources on both a county and state level.
- Those persons interested in a grazing association approach the idea by analyzing the situation carefully. Advantages of larger units and increased efficiency of range may be offset by numerous disadvantages.
- Private individuals interested in recreation as a source of income from their range should study the advantages and disadvantages of this use of range.

Summary

An overall unity of purpose in management and utilization of resources and an increase in cooperation between individual and agencies would be beneficial in the future. Working together would result in greater efficiency and decrease production costs.

The committee feels livestock producers could benefit from cooperative

efforts in the following areas: A hay buying cooperative, to decrease cost and increase quality; a grazing association, to increase summer pasture; a fence building cooperative, to decrease fencing costs; a sage spraying cooperative, to decrease spraying costs; and a hay equipment cooperative, to pool equipment and decrease cost of purchasing hay equipment.

LIVESTOCK AND RANGE COMMITTEE

Bob Martin, Chairman
Steve Burnet, Vice-Chairman
Terry P. Dugan, Secretary
Jim Belshe
Stan Coelsch
John Fields
George Fox
Bob Holmes
Lee Kaseberg

Bud Kock
Leland Medler
David Richelderfer
Orville Ruggles
John Shipley

Ex Officio: Bill Forrest
Dillard Gates
Dick May

Land Use and Crops

Don Thompson, Chairman

Verne Mobley, Secretary

The economy of Sherman County is based on productive, dryland agriculture, with winter wheat the most important crop. Grain will continue to make a major contribution to the economy of Sherman County. In addition, there is a promising potential for increasing production of intensive irrigated crops in some parts of the county.

Maintenance and growth of our dryland agriculture depends on proper conservation of land resources, continued adaptation of cultural prac-

tices, and use of newly developed knowledge to enhance farm management skills.

Adoption of the following recommendations made by the crop production, soil conservation, farm management and weed control subcommittees, will help improve the agricultural production in the county.

Continuation of the Land Use and Crops Committee following completion of the present ten-year planning effort also is recommended.

Crop Production

Dryland crops are the largest source of income in the county. Around three hundred thousand acres of cultivated land are available for cropping. Winter wheat is king, with barley of significant importance during the past 10 years due to federal farm programs. Sherman County, with 55% of its land under cultivation, has the highest percentage of any county in Oregon. It depends more on dryland cereals than any other county in the state.

Particular problems and achievements have occurred during the past 10 years. Many current problems are still unanswered. Unforeseen problems and production opportunities will need constant local attention and planning with research and education groups.

Insect Problems

Wireworms are the most significant insect problem to Sherman wheatland; however, effective seed treat-

ment is available. Grain aphids, cutworms, wheat stem maggots, wheat head worms, Mormon crickets, and grasshoppers have caused yield loss. We recommend.

- Constant watch for insect occurrence to avoid a sudden buildup of numbers that will cause damage before chemical controls can be used.
- OSU research and Extension continue to study insect threats and chemicals adapted for our area.

Plant Disease Control

Ten years ago smut was the most destructive disease recognized in our area. Now stripe rust, foot and root rots, and powdery mildew are the most costly plant diseases confronting wheat growers. Estimates by the Sherman County Agent indicate a million dollars a year average loss from these diseases during past five years. Much research has been done to produce resistant varieties of

wheat and better chemical controls, but more and continuous research is needed to combat new diseases and new varieties of old diseases. We recommend:

- That efforts be made by Sherman County and state organizations to obtain a cereal pathologist for Oregon.
- That the Land Use and Crops Committee, in conjunction with the Extension Service, estimate yearly losses from major plant diseases.
- A 10-year evaluation program of cultural practices to control foot and root rot on selected farms, to gather information that could be used to reduce crop losses.
- That the Cooperative Extension Service continue to pay close attention to disease problems, cooperate in research programs in the county, and establish demonstration trials as needed.

Fertilizer Programs

Nearly a half million dollars a year is spent on commercial fertilizers for Sherman County farms. Nitrogen is the principal nutrient used, with little indication to date that sulfur or phosphorus are needed on dry land. Irrigated crops use sulfur and phosphorus in varying degrees. Little research or demonstration work has been done in the past 10 years on fertilizer rates and needs, according to soil types. We recommend:

- That the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station renew study of fertilizer rates and timing at the Sherman Branch Experiment Station.
- That the Experiment Station and USDA Agricultural Research Service develop an improved fertilizer testing program for nitrogen and sulfur.
- That the Land Use and Crops Committee coordinate a countywide fertilizer trial program according to soil types and rainfall, seeking assistance of farmers, Extension Service, Experiment Station and fertilizer dealers. Trials should be on a con-

tinuing basis to keep abreast of changing nutrient needs and economical rates of application.

- That farmers use the OSU Soils Testing Laboratory for determining certain nutrient needs.
- That farmers keep more complete records of their fertilizer practices and report results.

Variety Testing

Most Sherman farmers adapt quickly to changes in wheat varieties. Supporting data for the wide variety of soil types and climatic conditions has been lacking. A series of wheat variety plots has been initiated in various parts of the county to test varieties under varying soil and moisture conditions. The committee believes there has been a shortage of this type work in the drier areas of the Columbia Basin. We recommend:

- Trials be conducted in dry areas to supplement information gathered at the Sherman and Pendleton Experiment Stations.
- The Extension Service continue to work in conjunction with the research stations in conducting this program and provide an analysis of the results to growers.

Barley and Spring Wheat

Rapid change has occurred in winter wheat varieties, while little change over 30 years is noted in spring wheat and barley varieties. Spring grains for certain specialized conditions have a definite place in our agricultural picture. Spring grains are needed to combat severe rye and cheat problems, and when reseeding is necessary following severe weather.

- We recommend the Experiment Station and USDA plant breeders give attention to developing higher yielding, adaptable winter and spring barley and spring wheat varieties for our area.

Seed Quality

Quality of wheat continues to be of great importance in our expanding markets. We recommend:

- That farmers continue to grow the varieties best adapted to our areas that are suited for the milling, baking, and export markets.
- That seed producers be encouraged to expand production of certified seed to help provide growers with the new varieties free from weeds, mixtures, and diseases.

In the near future hybrid wheats will be coming into use. We should keep in touch with this prospect and make their use available in this area whenever feasible.

Irrigated Crops

An irrigated vegetable crop demonstration area was initiated in 1966 in northeast Sherman County by the OSU Experiment and Extension Service.

- We recommend this program be continued and the quality of the program be improved.

Adaptation of irrigated crops as to yields and quality needs much work in the county to determine what crops are feasible and profitable to produce. Consideration, as personnel permits, should be given to irrigated crops not only at the lower elevation, but at the Sherman Station as well.

The irrigated crop testing program should provide a thorough testing program. Collection of data, however, from similar areas in the Pacific Northwest, should be helpful. Farm leadership should be provided to work with OSU, and with processing companies in this program, to view test plots and to help in the formation of realistic judgments concerning the suitability of the Columbia Plateau for production of vegetable crops for processing.

- Climatic data for prospective irrigated areas is needed. We recommend that a program be initiated with the aid of a random number of growers to collect detailed data on soil temperature, air temperature, wind velocity, and length of growing season.

Soil Conservation

Proper use of conservation of our land resources is vital to all. Present users of land resources are merely transitory custodians. We have a responsibility to future generations to leave our soil in better condition than when we took it over. Soil conservation is best defined as "The practical and profitable use of the land and other natural resources, without waste."

There has been marked progress in the last decade toward adoption of soil conservation practices. Protecting the soil against wind and water erosion, and making a living at the same time, is not easy and would not be practical without the recent advances in technology. About 95% of Sherman County is subject

to accelerated erosion caused by disturbance of natural conditions; through burning, excessive grazing or tillage. Wind and water erosion are both important problems. Soil loss studies have been conducted and a conservation needs inventory has been made. Complete data on county soils and their management is available in the cooperative soil survey manual.

Dryland Farming

The 1964 "Christmas Flood" repeated the need for rapid acceleration of land conservation practices.

CONSERVATION PRACTICE ADOPTION

Practices that have demonstrated

their usefulness and which need further adoption are:

● **Stubble Mulch**—This practice, if properly handled, can control 85% of soil erosion. This was demonstrated during the 1964 Christmas flood.

● **Diversion Terraces**—Large, farmable type, built by bulldozers on adapted soil types and slopes.

● **Grass Waterways**—In major field drainage channels.

● **Early Fall Seeding**—The committee recognizes that early seeding is not always practical but needs to be encouraged according to weather conditions and the availability of varieties resistant to plant pests and diseases. We recommend that deep-furrow press-wheel drills should not be used under conditions of late fall seeding. Soil compaction resulting from late use of press drills enhances runoff, especially on Condon silt loams.

● **Subsoiling**—The committee recommends that subsoiling be done wherever examination of soil indicates a need.

RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION NEEDS

We recommend research be continued and accelerated in the following problem areas:

● The Experiment Station and/or the USDA conduct additional research on subsoiling in representative areas of the county according to soil type, rainfall, and topography.

● The committee believes increased use of large wheel tractors will continue, with problems of soil compaction and over-pulverization of soil becoming more evident. Research needs to be done to determine the speeds and specialized equipment needed in the summer fallow area to overcome these problems.

● Machinery companies be made aware of coming changes due to more

use of chemical fallow or specialized weed control practices, and that machinery be adapted to this method of operation.

● The committee recognizes that the cheatgrass problem is the main obstacle to more use of stubble mulch, and that continued research by the Experiment Station and demonstrations by the Extension Service (as outlined in the Weed Committee section) is necessary to develop an effective cheatgrass control program.

● The maintenance and/or improvement of present levels of organic matter is desirable. Further basic research needs to be undertaken to determine effect of excessive tillage on organic matter breakdown and cropping systems to improve organic matter content.

● Additional applied and basic research needs to be done on the use of stubble mulch fallow. Research is needed on stubble mulch methods and benefits of various tillage systems. Basic research is needed to determine biological or physical factors that create the difference in yield between black and stubble mulch fallow.

● Comparative moisture data on various farm tillage practice is needed. The Land Use and Crops Committee should coordinate collection of such data through state and federal agencies.

● Future plans call for a USDA soils laboratory at the Pendleton station. The Land Use and Crops Committee must coordinate ideas for research from this county for this new program.

● Available moisture in the shallower soil areas with our summer fallow system is not being efficiently utilized. Research work and demonstration trials by OSU are needed to explore the physical and economic value of a system of annual

cropping or early seeding of barley for pasture on these shallower soils.

● Grass legume rotations are recognized as a conservation practice that will improve soil structure, increase water penetration, and reduce soil erosion. This practice has been attempted, but it has not gained popular acceptance due to farm programs and the uncertainty of economic value. Farm demonstrations and economic studies need to be made to prove the value of this practice.

CONSERVATION COORDINATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND EDUCATION

Progress in adoption of conservation practices on dryland farm areas has been rapid during the past 10 years. A variety of organizations and agencies working with growers have assisted this advancement. The county and Oregon Wheat Growers Leagues have supported programs, and have given encouragement to conservation of our resources. The Soil Conservation District has provided leadership in coordinating conservation efforts. The Soil Conservation Service, ASCS, and Cooperative Extension Service have all been active in some phase of the program.

In light of past accomplishments and the need for further adoption of erosion control methods, we recommend:

● That the Wheat League continue to seek long-range federal grain programs considering conservation of our natural resources.

● That the Soil Conservation District continue to provide leadership to farmers in adopting conservation programs; designing these programs, and providing support and counseling with all agencies available in this field.

a. Encourage improved cooperative action by tenant and landowner on adoption of conservation practices

in conjunction with state and federal agencies.

b. Develop a small pilot watershed project to serve as a demonstration of complete conservation programs, and resulting benefits, with help of the SCS, ASCS, and Extension.

c. Promote increased programs providing information and education to all age groups, town and country, on conservation of our natural resources.

● County schools include study of conservation in their curriculum, seeking assistance from available agencies.

● Farmers avail themselves of state and federal agency resources and educational material such as the "Sherman Soil Survey Manual," research and educational literature, experiment station and general farm tours.

Irrigated Lands

Water resource development in the county was given consideration by a special committee. Present irrigated acres are minor, but prospects for a 40,000-acre project in northeast Sherman County will create soil conservation and management problems needing further study and education.

Some problems now recognized, which will require further study, include: irrigation water management, cover crops, crop rotations, soil amendments for caliche and alkali areas, drainage problems, and wind and water erosion control on steeper land.

Intensified educational programs, field demonstrations and technical on-farm assistance will be needed if rapid expansion of irrigation occurs. We recommend the OSU research and Extension services and the Soil Conservation Service keep abreast of developments, and plan for staffing of personnel to meet such needs.

Weed Control

Marked progress has occurred over the past 10 years in weed control efforts in Sherman County. A variety of new materials have become available, timing and application methods have been much improved, and coordination of total efforts by farmers and agencies has paid off.

Weeds are a constant threat to agriculture. We need to renew past efforts, continue to support educational activities, and push for gradual enforcement of weed district laws.

Weed Council

The Sherman Weed Council was formed 10 years ago to coordinate county weed control programs, and to provide direction for educational activities. We recommend continuation of the weed Council, with two members appointed by the Court and five elected on a rotation basis during the annual weed meeting each winter. The council should coordinate the county weed program with the County Court, land owners and operators, commercial applicators, public utilities, and state and federal agencies. We recommend the Council continue to:

- Develop an intensive weed program to reduce present perennial infestation and sources of new infestations, with consideration for efficiency and proper use of present and future tax dollars.
- Inventory perennial weed infestations and take action to meet these problems.
- Serve as an advisory group to the County Court on weed problems on private, state, and federal lands.
- Work closely with the OSU Cooperative Extension Service in use of new chemicals, recommendations, and educational programs on weed control.

Weed District

A weed control district pertaining to certain noxious perennial weeds as established in 1940 by court order. Provisions of this order have not been enforced. A new Oregon weed law is under study which, if passed, will require greater attention by land owners and county governing bodies. This committee approves in principle the provisions of the new law but recommends further study be given to specific provisions and proposed changes. We recommend the county work toward enforcement of weed control laws, providing funds for personnel, materials, equipment, and legal help.

Weed Control on Public Property

The County Extension agents have coordinated efforts for perennial and noxious weed control on city, county, state, and federal properties.

● We recommend continued supervision of this program by Extension agents, but we also recommend that the county budget sufficient funds to hire part-time or full-time help to do the field work, provide materials, and maintain equipment.

All perennial noxious weeds, plus nuisance weeds, such as wild oats, rye, sandbur, and puncturevine, should be eradicated on public property. The County Court is to be complimented on their roadside weed control program.

● We recommend continued support for sterilization and/or hormone materials on county road properties.

Increased attention should be given to developing and using a grass seeding program on old as well as on county road sections.

● We recommend that all new roads be shaped and seeded to grass by the

county before fences are rebuilt. We further recommend that the county and the Cooperative Extension Service continue to investigate methods and grass varieties for roadside seeding. Further investigation of the broadcasting system used by the State Highway Department is encouraged.

The court and road department have agreed to shape road banks where farmers are building new fences.

- We encourage this program and recommend that more producers take advantage of this opportunity to establish grass in fence rows, to reduce sources of annual and perennial weeds, and for soil stabilization.

Noxious Weeds

The goal of eradication of White Top, Russian Knapweed, Canadian Thistle, and Dalmation Toadflax on all properties during the past 10 years was not achieved. Progress was made but renewed effort with new materials and techniques needs to be emphasized.

- We recommend eradication of these perennial weeds as fast as possible.

Rye As A Weed

Rye grain continues to plague growers as a crop pest in wheat and barley. Research is encouraged to find a selective chemical for its control. Farmers are encouraged to consider the plant as a weed and to utilize known methods to reduce infestation and future spread. A rotation with fall tillage and spring wheat for two years has proven effective.

- Roadside and wasteland rye control and grass seeding are recommended.

Farmers with field infestation of rye can be of valuable service to neighbors and the entire county by utilizing the known control methods.

- Covering of bulk trucks to reduce the spread along roadways and field roguing is recommended.

Cheatgrass Problem

Cheatgrass is the number one weed pest and production problem in Sherman County. This annual plant has evaded research efforts for selective control in grain.

- We continue to recommend extensive research work by the Oregon Agriculture Experiment Station, Agriculture Research Service, USDA, chemical companies, and plot and field demonstrations by the OSU Cooperative Extension Service.

A quick answer to the cheatgrass problem is doubtful. Known methods to reduce infestation need to be employed. Control of cheatgrass in fence rows, wasteland, and field draws is helpful. Proper timing of tillage operations is essential for cheat control. Chemical fallow methods now available are useful for stubble mulch fallow. The latter method holds promise for earlier cheatgrass control than selective methods.

- Continued investigation and demonstrations along these lines are recommended.

Selective methods for chemical cheatgrass control could well cause changes in timing, equipment, and residue factors for future crops.

- We recommend OSU and USDA agricultural engineers and chemical companies give consideration to equipment needs in regard to timing and methods for either chemical fallow or selective cheatgrass control programs.

Weed Awareness

- Old and new weeds are constantly being introduced into our communities. It is recommended that farmers be constantly aware of un-

known plants and the various methods of weed seed spreading.

Sources of weed seed movement are motor vehicles, weed seed in crop seed, livestock, hay, feed, farm equipment, wildlife feeding on mature plants, flower and garden seed packages, wind and water erosion, and the introduction of undesirable plants into yards or cemeteries. Hand-outs, weed pamphlets, weed sample mounts, colored slides, and identification of plants are available from the County Extension office.

There is a constant attack on weeds. New chemicals are constantly being released.

● We recommend the OSU Cooperative Extension Service call weed problems to the attention of research institutions, and continue to demonstrate the use of new materials in co-

operation with Sherman farmers and chemical company fieldmen.

There are over 100 different chemicals and combinations of chemicals that are used effectively in weed control. Farmers and commercial applicators need to become more familiar with types of materials, their specific uses, and cautions for use. A safeguard for any user of herbicides is to follow the registered label attached to the container.

Extreme caution needs to be taken in use of materials to ward off spray damage problems to desirable plants and plantings. Some serious spray drift damage has occurred to towns, farm yards, and wildlife habitat plantings. Increased attention to safety by all applicators is necessary, otherwise continued violation and misuse will undoubtedly cause a restriction in the use of these extremely important spray materials.

Farm Management

Today's farming methods and organization units are vastly different from that of 50 years ago. Tomorrow's farming will be characterized by a new kind of challenge. Revolutionary changes in production techniques, adjustment in farm units, and narrower profit margins, have added and will continue to add new dimensions to farm business management. Success is no longer assured by hard physical work, but to a great extent determined by the ability of a farmer to make sound decisions, and by his willingness to face uncertainty and accept risk.

Making sound decisions requires the application of economic principles, either by intuition or design. Successful farm management in the past has largely relied on trial and error methods. Farmers need to utilize farm management economic principles to reduce guess work and to improve decision making.

Farm Size

The average sized Sherman County farm has increased 20% in acreage during the past 10 years. The adoption of new techniques in production and the pressure of profit margins has reduced farm numbers and increased the size of dryland summer fallow farms. We predict farm size by acreage will continue to increase. Irrigation development would gradually change the average size farm.

Landlord-Tenant Relations

Land ownership in Sherman County has been closely held for the past 80 years, except for a period during the 1930's, with the result that 60% of tillable acres are tenant operated. This percentage has declined during the past 10 years due to absentee landowner sales in the mid-sixties, and with lower wheat prices and result-

ing lower returns to capital. During 1938, 71% of the cropland was tenant operated, with a small decline to 69% in 1958.

We feel the trend to larger dryland farms will continue, and that the county might be more conducive to constructive improvement in farming methods, conservation practices and general welfare of the county if percentage of owner-operators was higher.

Irrigated agriculture would cause a radical change in farming methods and owner-operator operational patterns for summer fallow wheat farmers.

- We recommend a thorough study be made of the changes in farm ownership and operation that might be necessary in order to bring about a more intensified form of agriculture in the county.

Farm Management Tools

As a relative one-crop and specialized farm economy, the Sherman County farmer has not utilized to a high degree farm management tools and principles for farm business analysis and planning. As farms enlarge, management becomes the key to successful operation. Within the next 10 years agriculture is likely to face a revolutionary change in the management function due to computer technology. Dryland wheat farmers, with larger acreage, prospective technology changes, and equipment costs, will find use for these systems, as will multiple enterprise farms. Adaptation of livestock enterprises and the multiplicity of irrigated agriculture in part of the county, will bring about a need to use a variety of farm management tools and economic principles. We recommend:

- Farmers set aside time for management, and more fully utilize farm management tools, such as farm records, budgets, and enterprise data studies.

- Increased use of electronic data processing systems by Sherman farmers to gather data and assist producers in evaluation, analyzing, and planning the most efficient operation. We further encourage educational programs by Extension Service to inform growers of their value, and how to utilize the data obtained.

- Increased educational programs by the OSU Extension Service in farm management, through workshops, shortcourses, farm management studies, enterprise analysis, and adaptation of multiple enterprises to dryland or irrigated farming.

- Utilization of a farm management area specialist by the OSU Extension Service, who would work more closely with county Extension agents and farmers in implementing the study and adoption of farm management principles.

Enterprise Data Studies

Enterprise data studies provide information on the cost of production per acre. Such information can be adapted to different crops or cropping practices, and can be done as a group or by individual growers. They are not a substitute for detailed records for growers, but give useful estimates of current costs. A wheat enterprise data study was developed by the farm management subcommittee in conjunction with OSU Extension Service. Copies are available from County Extension Agent's office. We recommend:

- Periodic updating of this study and development of additional studies for dryland and irrigated crops and livestock programs and equipment usage as needed.

- The Land Use and Crops Committee take the lead, in conjunction with the Extension Service, in conducting a wheat management study, or other crop or cropping programs for interested producers to provide up-to-date cost of operation and re-

turns to management, and to provide labor and capital data.

● The Extension Service publicize and distribute to county producers the data developed.

Equipment Costs

Equipment costs have risen tremendously for Sherman wheat farmers. Efficiencies in ownership and use of equipment can be achieved. Leasing specialized equipment may provide some opportunity for reduced total cost of operation and for the adoption of particular conservation practices on crop and rangeland. We recommend:

● Producers analyze their equipment needs, using partial budget and the data available on equipment needs according to acreage and other farm management tools.

● Equipment companies consider providing specialized equipment for rent.

● Smaller farm units consider joint farm ownership or custom hire.

● The Land Use and Crops Committee, in cooperation with the OSU Extension Service, work with custom operators in developing custom hire rates applicable to local conditions and current enterprise data information.

LAND USE AND CROPS COMMITTEE

Don Thompson, Chairman
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Sam Alberty
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Rolland Johnson
Don Macnab
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Dewey Thomas
Bill Todd
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Bill Forrest
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Thomas W. Thompson

COVER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Combining soft white winter wheat in Sherman County.

Photo By U.S.D.A.

John Day Dam east of Rufus on the Columbia River. Project constructed by the Corps of Engineers with main structure to be completed by April, 1968.

Photo by U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.