

Huge Gain Shown In Valuation Of Oregon Counties

SALEM, July 14 (AP)—The total assessed valuation of 35 Oregon counties is \$1,431,644,770, a gain of \$120,000,000 over last year, the State Tax Commission, said yesterday.

The totals include all counties except Marion, whose county assessor has not yet filed for his county.

The total for all counties will be the highest in history.

The commission announced that 13 counties have reduced their ratios of assessed valuation to actual cash value, and that the other 23 counties have the same ratios as last year.

Jefferson county, with 70 per cent ratio, is highest, and Polk county's 37 per cent is lowest.

Curry and Lincoln counties with ratios of 57 and 60 per cent reduced their ratios 3 per cent the largest reductions in the state.

The following counties, with their new ratios, had 2 per cent reductions: Clackamas 58, Douglas 58, Jackson 58, Josephine 53, Tillamook 47, Washington 46.

These counties had 1 per cent reductions: Benton 49, Clatsop 48, Klamath 44, Lane 48, Marion 41.

Ratios for counties which are unchanged from last year are: Baker 59, Columbia 42, Coos 60, Crook 50, Deschutes 40, Gilliam 61, Grant 54, Harney 65, Hood River 54, Jefferson 70, Lake 61, Linn 47, Malheur 54, Morrow 66, Multnomah 58, Polk 37, Sherman 63, Umatilla 61, Union 54, Walla Walla 50, Wasco 52, Wheeler 55, Yamhill 49.

School Superintendent Seeks Houses and Rooms

Persons having housing facilities or rooms to care for teachers of the Roseburg schools next fall are requested by Superintendent of Schools Paul Elliott to contact him, either at his office in the Junior High School or by phoning 434.

Supt. Elliott said that there will be a need for several new teachers in the school. He stated that Roy Crane, former principal of Benson school, would return to Roseburg to teach, provided that he could obtain a living arrangement whereby his six-year-old boy can be cared for before and after school. Mr. Crane's wife, who also formerly taught here, passed away about a month ago at Denver, after a lingering illness.

Grand Jury Will Probe Fictitious Check Charge

William Robertson Adams, alias Bill Robertson and W. Adams, waived preliminary hearing and was bound over to the grand jury, when he appeared in the court of Justice of Peace Thomas C. Hartfield Tuesday on a charge of obtaining money under false pretense, the justice reported.

Adams is alleged to have passed a check signed by T. McVagury at the Roseburg Parts & Supply Store, owned by John J. Zeno, according to the district attorney's information, but the information states that the name McVagury was fictitious.

The check was for \$73, for which \$13.67 was returned in merchandise, \$25 in cash, and \$33.33 by check from Zeno, the information stated.

Adams' bail was set by Hartfield at \$500, which he failed to raise and he was committed to the county jail.

Auto Testing Station's Abolishment Advised

PORTLAND, July 14 (AP)—Abolition of the city auto testing station was recommended to the City Council yesterday by the Multnomah County Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission.

The commission said that the testing could not be fully enforced and that its value did not warrant the cost to car owners.

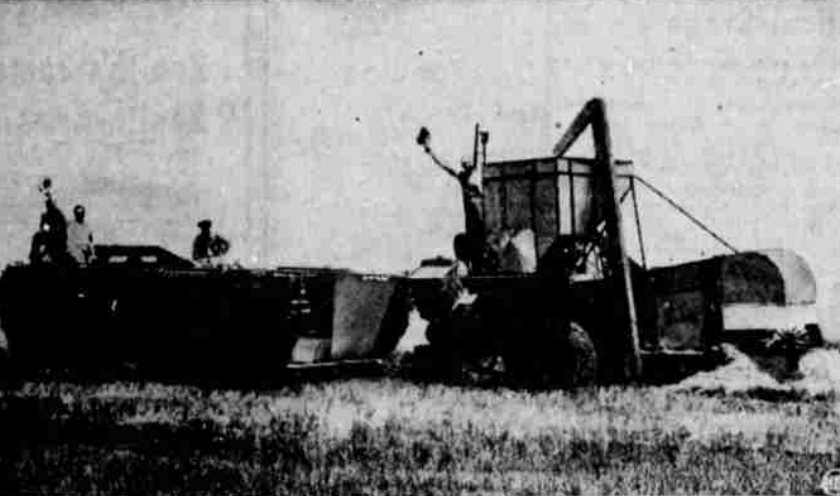
The commission also recommended dropping from the city budget the \$10,000 allocated for

Will Swim for U. S. at Olympics



These three men will represent U. S. in Olympics in 100-meter freestyle swimming at the trials, Detroit, Mich., Walter Rie, University of Iowa, (center), was first; Keith Carter, Purdue (left), was second, and Alan Ford (right), New Haven Swimming Club, was third. (NEA Telephoto)

Farmer Makes a Beachhead in a Wheat Field



Billy Koelsch, St. John, Kan., wheat farmer, turned his combine to a war surplus landing barge when heavy rains made his fields too muddy for ordinary tractors. Koelsch's ingenuity saved his wheat crop, which yielded about 30 bushels to the acre. With regular equipment, he would have had to wait another week before he could harvest.

Soil Conservation Topic of Meet In Eastern Oregon

PENDLETON, Ore., July 14 (AP)—Northwest farmers, soil experts and Soil Conservation Service officials are meeting here to decide what the program would be for a proposed regional soil-saving laboratory.

Congress has allocated \$22,000 for "studies of soil erosion on the wheat lands of the northwest."

H. E. Middleton of Washington, D. C., assistant chief of research for SCS, indicated larger appropriations were expected next year and the years following. The Eastern Oregon Wheat League, which first proposed the project, had asked for \$138,000 the first year and \$90,000 annually thereafter.

The Oregon legislature also was to be asked for additional funds for the project.

H. R. Weatherford of Arlington, wheat league representative, told the group that difficulty of handling heavy straw was one of the biggest problems confronting northwest farmers.

He said the straw, when used as a mulch to save soil from blowing and washing away, "balled up" weedeaters, drills and other machinery.

James Beamer of Adams, Umatilla County AAA chairman, said the fence corners throughout the northwest wheat "belt" were full of implements farmer had "purchased but found would not work."

Umatilla county was represented as a good location for the laboratory because all the soil types of the northwest were to be found in this area.

The original laboratory plan called for "pilot farms" of about 40 acres each located at various places throughout the county. Each "farm" would be divided into four fields to compare different methods of farming. The lab's objective would be to find methods of saving northwest soils from all kinds of erosion.

Power Pool Studies Plans Cutbacks in Emergency

TACOMA, July 14 (AP)—A subcommittee of the Northwest Power Pool is meeting here to study plans for possible curtailment and cutbacks in power in any future emergency.

The group, which includes representatives of public and private

power companies of the Pacific Northwest, is concerned with setting up a plan of operations if the Northwest should be faced with drought conditions such as occurred in California this winter.

The purpose of the session is to draft a plan for submission to the committee of the whole, Tacoma's Public Utilities Commissioner Clifford Erdahl said.

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Bids Asked for Lining Columbia Basin Project

COULEE DAM, July 14 (AP)—Bids on the construction of 61 miles of canal lining in the Columbia Basin project will be opened Aug. 17, the Bureau of Reclamation said today.

The section of the canal to be lined is part of the main waterway extending from Long Lake dam, near Stratford, toward Soap Lake.

Excavation for the canal was completed in June, 1947, at a cost of \$619,000. More than 2,000,000 cubic yards of earth and rock were moved in construction of the "big ditch," bureau officials said.

The section of the canal to be lined is part of the main waterway extending from Long Lake dam, near Stratford, toward Soap Lake.

Cigaret Prices Reported Slated for Increase

NEW YORK, July 14 (AP)—The possibility of an increase in cigarette prices was rumored in trade circles today as the time draws near for auctioning of the flue-cured tobacco crop.

Cigaret manufacturers have increased their prices only a cent a pack since 1937. The most recent increase was 25 cents a thousand—about half a cent a pack—in October, 1946.

Industry sources say that practically everything that goes into the cost of processing the "smokes" has increased.

Ancient Book of Psalms Auctioned for \$16,000

LONDON, July 14 (AP)—A Psalter—a book of Psalms—printed between 1332 and 1349 for the Bonne of Luxembourg brought £16,000 (\$64,000) at an auction yesterday.

It was purchased by a London book dealer. The Psalter was from the library of the late Baron Horace De Landau. The Bonne of Luxembourg was a daughter of the blind King of Bohemia, killed at Crecy in 1346, and a granddaughter of Saint Wenceslas.

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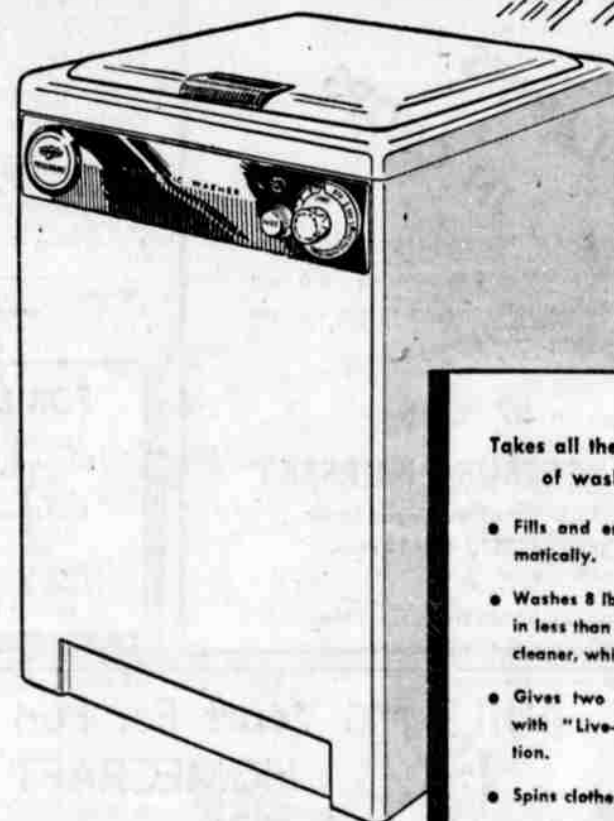
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