

# The News-Review

Published Daily Except Sunday by the News-Review Company, Inc.  
Entered as second class matter May 7, 1920, at the post office at Roseburg, Oregon, under act of March 3, 1879.  
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Member of the Associated Press, Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, the Audit Bureau of Circulations  
Represented by WEST-HOLLIDAY CO., INC., offices in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, St. Louis.  
SUBSCRIPTION RATES—In Oregon—By Mail—Per Year \$5.00, six months \$2.50, three months \$1.50. By City Carrier—Per Year \$10.00 (in advance), less than one year, per month \$1.00. Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per year \$5.00, six months \$2.75, three months \$1.75.

## YOU'RE BEING ROBBED

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Twenty years ago an individual, or individuals, committed a crime which has cost the people of Douglas County more than \$20,000,000. The exact loss resulting from this crime has never been accurately determined, nor have the criminals ever been apprehended. In fact, it would be impossible to inventory the loss with any degree of accuracy, because the amount keeps growing with the years. Another sizable sum must be added to the total this year.

Twenty million dollars is a considerable amount to be taken from a public treasury. Had this sum been stolen from a bank, or had it been secured through fraud or stick-up, the nation's entire police force would have been alerted and assigned the task of apprehending the criminals. But because the crime was of an ordinary pattern, it aroused little public interest, and even today many people do not realize they have been robbed. Yet the public loss stands at \$20,000,000 on a very conservative inventory. If all the intangibles could be listed, the amount would be far greater.

It was in the fall of 1929 that "person or persons unknown," to use the customary phrase, set a string of incendiary fires in the Beaver Lake area on the South Umpqua district of the Umpqua National Forest.

It had been a dry fall and the forests were like tinder. Yet, because there had been earlier rains, a major part of the forest protection crew had been withdrawn.

The incendiary fires were strung out over a considerable area. They gained great headway before fire fighters could be assembled, equipped and moved into the scene.

The puny efforts of men, however, had no effect upon the blaze which raged out of control for many days, burning through from 6,000 to 7,000 acres of mature, virgin, merchantable timber.

If the Beaver Lake timber had not been burned it would have a stumpage value today in excess of \$1,500,000, for the fire destroyed more than 100,000,000 board feet of merchantable timber, which, because of its quality and accessibility, would be in ready demand today at a minimum of \$15 per thousand stumpage.

But the stumpage price of timber is the least of its values. To process 100,000,000 feet of logs into finished products would yield many times the stumpage cost, particularly taking into account payrolls, supplies, services, profits, etc.

Consequently, an inventory shows tangible losses in excess of \$20,000,000, simply because criminally-minded incendiaries lit fires with a few matches.

But what about intangibles? The Beaver Lake fire had an immediate effect upon fish life in the South Umpqua River. Loss of water retention on the land caused higher flood peaks and lower summertime flow. Summertime water temperatures rose beyond fish life tolerance. Silt damaged spawning beds. Ashes washed into the stream changing chemical conditions. Down timber blocked tributaries normally used for spawning.

Who can evaluate the fishery loss resulting from the original Beaver Lake fire? Other factors are to be considered in loss of topsoil, flood damage, loss of sub-irrigation, etc.

## Whence All But Him Had Fled



## Scans from the MENDING BASKET

By Viahnnett S. Martin  
Recalling a year in which I labored through a course in civics, I am discouraged. For one shining item I gleaned out of it—or so I thought until I read a recent AP dispatch—was one concerning the viewpoint of a United States Senator.

## Congress Hasn't Made Dent In Heap Of Domestic Legislation

By PETER EDSON  
NEA Washington Correspondent  
WASHINGTON — (NEA) — President Truman's program for domestic legislation is in an even worse way than his requests to Congress for action in the fields of foreign affairs and national defense.

## Justice To Drop Plaintiff Against Laughing Diner

HUNTINGTON PARK, Calif., May 19. — (AP) — Justice of the Peace Stanley Moffat—the jurist who likes silence with his soup—says he will ask for dismissal of a peace disturbance complaint against a laughing diner.

## VITAL STATISTICS

Marriage Licenses  
WEATHERSBEE - HIGEN B O T H A M — Bobby Gambill Weathersbee, Sutherlin, and Lucille Arline Higenbotham, Central Point.  
JAYKKA HILL — John William Jaykka and Alberta Marie Hill, both of Oakland.  
Divorce Suits Filed  
HALEY — Gerald T., vs. Bernice Haley, Married Feb. 4, 1949, at Crescent City, Calif. Cruel and inhuman treatment charged.

Divorce Suit Filed  
WEST — Earl M., vs. Genevieve N. West, Married at Reno, Nev., Feb. 6, 1948. Cruel and inhuman treatment charged. Plaintiff asks for a property settlement, and that defendant's former name of Genevieve Norris be restored.  
SUES FOR LAND  
Demanding judgment for restitution of premises located at 100 Spruce Street, Roseburg, Florence A. Garrecht has filed a suit in Circuit Court against Martin E. McClay and Moss K. Brown, doing business as Roseburg Nursery, Ltd. The complaint states that the defendants are in possession of a portion of the property specifically prescribed.

## Five Suits For Money Filed In Circuit Court

The following money action suits have been filed in Circuit Court:  
Pacific Greyhound Lines vs. R. F. Randall and Robert Miller, doing business as Randall and Miller Lumber Co., and Vernon R. Work. Plaintiff alleges that on March 31, 1948, a lumber "hyster" operated by Work for the lumber company along Highway 99 a half-mile north of Drain, turned left across the highway as the bus was passing. The hyster allegedly hit the bus in the back side window with its steering arms. Damages of \$744.42 are asked.

Douglas Creditors Association have filed suit against Kenneth G. Hong and Edna Grace Hong to collect assigned accounts in the sums of \$86, \$44.06 and \$152.50.  
Douglas Creditors have also filed against Mrs. Minnie Williams, now Mrs. John Schlachter, to collect assigned accounts amounting to \$55 and \$240.

## In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

the prospect of declining income, wants to spend more and UP the taxes.

WHY the difference? Well, when your income drops, you're up the creek in a leaky boat. When government's income drops, it reaches into the pockets of the people for more.

HERE'S another one for the book: Coast Guard headquarters in Washington have received this brief and pithy letter from a citizen in Nebraska:

"Dear Sirs: Will you please send me some of your free airplanes and ships? I will appreciate it very much."  
IT'S a little on the screwball side, of course. But you can hardly blame the guy after what candidates for public office have been promising all these long years.

THERE are screwballs everywhere. The other day a scholarly gentleman, equipped with documents attesting to his prominence as an Egyptologist, persuaded the French authorities to let him examine inscriptions on the obelisque of Luxor in the Place de la Concorde, one of Paris' most famous squares.

The Fire Department obligingly backed a hook-and-ladder truck up to the tall shaft of the obelisque. The "scholar" shinned up the ladder. When he got to the top, he pulled a cigarette-lighting gadget from his pocket and began to ballyhoo its merits in the leather-lunged tones of a barker at an American side-show.

THE firemen, with red faces, pulled the ladder down, and the crowd laughed—as crowds the world over do when somebody puts something over on the authorities.

YOU read in this column yesterday that Eastern Germany (the Soviet Zone) was expected to turn in at Sunday's and Monday's two-day election a practically unanimous vote for the Communist slate (which was the only ticket on the ballot).

SOMETHING SLIPPED. Of 12 million valid ballots cast at the election, FOUR MILLION WERE MARKED "NO!"

THE Berlin dispatch telling of what happened concludes: "So shocked were the Communists officials that the election returns were withheld for 20 hours after the polls closed and the Soviet-controlled newspapers yelled 'DOUBLE-CROSS' at their political allies in the Eastern Zone."  
That IS one for the book.

SCHOOL BUDGET OK'd  
MEDFORD, May 19. — (AP) — Medford's school district voters Tuesday OK'd, 289 to 71, a budget calling for \$351,442. It will boost taxes by \$55,622.

Phone 100  
If you do not receive your News-Review by 6:15 P. M. call Mr. Waters before 7:00 P. M.  
Phone 100

## Harmony Reigns In Ashland Council On Budget

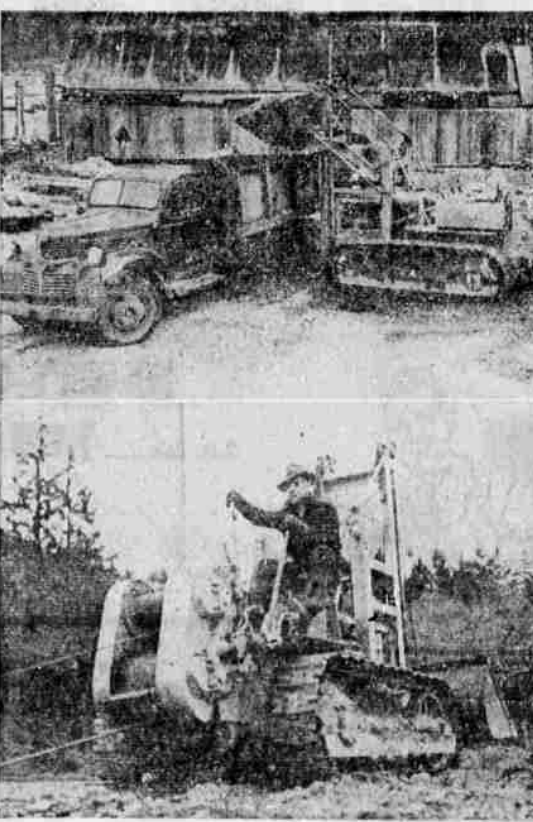
ASHLAND, Ore., May 19. — (AP) — Ashland's mayor and city councilmen who verbally slugged out disagreements among themselves early in the year found a new problem—the budget.

They met it in harmony, however, and came up with a tentative answer of getting approval for more than the legal 6 percent tax boost. It would be the first time in the city's history the 6 percent limit was exceeded.

Among other troubles: a \$3,500 audit of city books ordered during the earlier scrapping; \$9,000 approved for improvement of the Police Department; \$1,800 for a summer recreation program and \$2,500 for Chamber of Commerce aid, both already approved; and need for additional employees.

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"We should have bought our 'Caterpillar' D4 Tractor years ago!" Says OCEANSIDE LUMBER CO., Inc. Garibaldi, Oregon



"Our 'Caterpillar' D4 Tractor is equipped with a Traxcavator bucket and a Hyster-2-drum winch. It's easily the most versatile machine around our mill. With the Traxcavator we load hog fuel and other materials... and also use the bucket to blade around the yard. The winch is used to dredge out our log pond. The Hyster winch also comes in handy for hoisting heavy saws and other equipment up to the second floor. The tractor will go anywhere and has plenty of power for all jobs. We should have bought it years ago!"

That's what C. E. Castle, Manager, Oceanside Lumber Co., Inc. has to say about the "Caterpillar" D4 his firm purchased recently.

Equipped with a Traxcavator bucket and a Hyster winch a "Caterpillar" Diesel Tractor will handle a bigger variety of jobs than any machine you can buy... INTERSTATE Tractor and Equipment Co. 704 N. Jackson ROSEBURG Phone 893