

# The News-Review

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## OUR TAX PROBLEM

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Oregon Business and Tax Research, Inc., gives Douglas county a black eye in its current review of state taxes, submitted to newspapers for publication.

The bulletin contains the following paragraphs:

Douglas county has the dubious honor of having the largest over-all property tax increase, slightly more than 52 per cent over the 1948-49 levy.

Douglas county's property tax increase was due principally to a 77.8 per cent increase for county costs, which includes a county indigent home fund of \$225,627 and a 50.8 per cent lift in tax cost of schools. Cities and towns increased taxes amounted to 21.4 per cent.

At first glance it would appear that Douglas county is in bad shape financially, instead of being perhaps the best off in the state from a financial standpoint. Nor is it mentioned that our increase in assessed valuation is one of the highest in the state.

That "77.8 per cent increase for county costs," would cause the uninformed to believe our county court was piling on the taxes. The fact is, however, that insofar as county administration is concerned, we have one of the lowest millage levies in the state, and the 77.8 per cent increase results chiefly from the four-mill special levy voted to finance construction of a county hospital. Income from sales of county-owned timber and lands, sold on long-term contracts, is used to finance county administration and the county levy is almost entirely for roads and bridges.

Douglas county's big tax headache results from school needs—and that problem will get a lot worse before it begins to get better.

Douglas county in rate of population increase is second only to Jefferson county. It has gone to fourth place in pay-rolls. It has had one of the highest percentage increases in assessed valuation of property.

Nearly every school district has been forced to construct new school buildings. Virtually every school district has taxed itself to the limit permitted by law. Yet birth statistics indicate that within the next five years we will be required to again almost double classroom capacity.

Douglas county's total tax bill this year is up 52.6 per cent, of which 50.8 per cent is represented by increase in school taxes. The major part of the increase in school taxes is for construction of new buildings, employment of teachers and furnishing textbooks and materials to take care of increased enrollment. But we still will need far more school capacity than at present.

Our tax load will not be greatly eased so long as we continue to grow. Two to three years are required to get improvements on the tax rolls and to collect taxes on increased valuations. The long lag cannot be avoided. Thus, as we grow, we have demand for more services and more facilities, but tax revenue is at least two years behind requirements. So, until population and progress become static, we must anticipate tax problems.

Oregon Business and Tax Research, Inc., an organization working for lower taxes and combatting tax increases, a very worthy and needed purpose, is not above "coloring" its statements to create prejudice. Many newspapers doubtless will publish its bulletin in which Douglas county's tax increases are given undeserved implications.

Our tax increases, while we do not like them, actually are indicative of progress and should be considered a boost rather than a knock.

Our millage for county government is extremely low. Our cities are well within averages for their population and Roseburg's tax is exceptionally low on a comparative basis. The bulk of our tax dollar goes to our schools, and we consider it to be to the credit of our taxpayers that they are willing—despite their grumbling—to furnish the best possible educational opportunities for our youth.

## Dog Licenses To Go On Sale Here December 23

The city of Roseburg will start selling dog licenses for 1950 at the city hall, commencing Friday, Dec. 23, announced Recorder William Bollman.

All residents of the city should secure their dog licenses at the city hall instead of the courthouse, said Bollman. The city has made arrangements with the county to collect the license, from all residents within the corporate limits.

The license fee remains \$2 for males and speyed females and \$3 for females. The city retains 80 percent of its collections and the county receives 20 percent. March 1 is the deadline for securing licenses. After that date a \$1 flat penalty is charged. The penalty has been changed. It previously went up 25 cents monthly to a total of \$1.

Roseburg maintains a dog pound and employs two dog catchers on a part-time basis. Dogs running at large are picked up and impounded. They may be retrieved within five days by paying the cost of board. Unlicensed dogs will not be released unless licenses are purchased. In all about 100 dogs have been impounded, but most of them have been retrieved by the owners. Unclaimed dogs will either be given away to any person requesting them, upon their pay-

ment of the board and license fee, or they will be disposed of, according to Bollman.

## Here Are 'DO's' And 'TO's' For Packages To Korea

EUGENE, (AP)—Without so much as a what-ho, the U. S. postal department gave these instructions to all postmasters in a bi-weekly bulletin.

"The following provinces comprising the Korean republic are open to parcel post—cheju-do, cholla-namdo, cholla-pukto, ch'ung'ong-pukto, hwanghae-do, kangwon-do, kyonggi-do, kyongsang-namdo, kyongsang-pukto.

"The provinces marked with an asterisk are divided by the 38th parallel of latitude and it is the responsibility of the mailers to determine that the post-office to which their parcels are addressed are located south of the 38th parallel.

## J. M. Housley Elected Real Estate Board Head

J. M. Housley, of the Valley Real Estate agency, was elected president of the Douglas County Realty board at the monthly meeting Wednesday night in the chamber of commerce room. Housley succeeds Macon Jack of Jack Realty. Other officers include Joseph W. Dent of Roseburg Realty, vice-president, and Peter B. Serafin of C. S. Briggs & Co., secretary-treasurer.

## The Old Master



## In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

people gave out a considerable number of complimentary tickets. As conditions in their industry changed—as, for example, costs rose to the point where they no longer could afford such a practice—they began to cut down on their lists of "comp" holders.

From all I can hear, the roar that went up from those who had been getting into the shows for free was terrific.

WE newspapers used to follow the same practice. We gave away complimentary subscriptions. Why? I never did know for sure. I think perhaps the practice grew up out of the curious quirk in human nature that makes it easier for us to say YES than to say NO.

Anyway, we did it. We excused ourselves on the ground that after all once the press started it didn't make much difference. In those days paper was very, very cheap and I suppose we reasoned that when we gave complimentary papers to certain people we were MAKING FRIENDS.

Came then the war. And with the war came scarcity and high prices of paper. With paper scarce and the price of it high, we began to cut off our "comps."

!!! &&& \*\*\*\* ????? !!!

THOSE asterisks and exclamation points and question marks and such that end the preceding paragraph of this piece are intended to depict language of the kind one isn't supposed to spell out in a family journal.

The language in question was used by those to whom we had been giving complimentary copies and to whom we had been compelled to announce that hereafter it would be impossible to give any more complimentary copies.

It wasn't all just plain rough language. In fact, relatively little of it was rough. It was more on the plaintive side. People who had been getting papers for nothing were hurt and disillusioned to think that after having been so generous and so thoughtful all these years we had suddenly turned hard and grasping and commercial.

They just couldn't believe it of us, they said.

## Bogus Security Expert Lands In Hands Of FBI

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 16 (AP)—One of the FBI's 10 most wanted men—Henry Lawrence Goslee, 46—is in the county jail facing an indictment charging interstate transportation of bogus securities.

Arthur P. Moran, special assistant U.S. attorney, said Goslee, under 28 aliases, traveled around the country for several years writing bad checks. He was arrested last month in Reno and brought here.

## Scrapes from the MENDING BASKET

By Viahnnett S. Martin

"I found my silver tablespoon." Mrs. Algernon Bitwuns remarked to me the other day. "Yes, I'm glad, too. My English cousin found it for me. Don't look so surprised. She's still in England." Mrs. Bitwuns picked up a long letter. "Listen to this bit." She read aloud.

"I have been trying to get an American book . . . but not even Foyle's, our greatest book shop has been able to supply it . . . I'll tell you why I wanted the Victory Picture Book so badly: I have joined the Cactus & Succulent Society of Great Britain. During the past twelve months I have taken several prizes at the Royal Horticultural Hall in London, also the Silver Challenge Cup at our Local Branch."

"Mercy me, I didn't know they liked cactus in England—with that climate!" I said, interested very much. "I collected cactus plants once . . . but I got so tired of forty-seven little colored pots around that I put all into one big container. Left that out in our lath house. Along came some unusual weather in Southern California—my cactus froze!"

"Too bad," said Matilda, hurrying on with the letter excerpts.

## LETTERS to the Editor

### IWA Will Conduct Its Own Negotiations

ROSEBURG—We note with interest the strike threat and exaggerated claims of membership by spokesmen for the A.F.L. Lumber and Sawmill Workers. No attempt to date has been made by officials of the A.F.L. Sawmill Workers to meet with representatives of the I.W.A. in Southwestern Oregon, regarding negotiations and demands to be made upon the industry.

The contract demands of the I.W.A. will be formulated by the rank and file of our organization and ratified by a conference scheduled for the early part of January in Portland.

The I.W.A. will conduct its own negotiations with employers under contract with locals in our district and no other organization will be permitted to interfere with the contracts or negotiations to improve the living and working conditions of the I.W.A. membership.

ED BENEDICT, President, District 7.

### Property Owners Warned Of Higher Tax Proposals

ROSEBURG—So you property owners are griping about your outrageous high tax statements you just received.

Listen! You haven't seen anything yet.

Wait until the election comes up for the new city hall and airport if you think they are high now. And don't think it won't pass, unless we property owners, who have to foot the bill, turn out and vote them down.

Roseburg has no industry other than lumbering and logging, and don't think these are going to stay good very much longer. You merchants know how your business suffers when the mills don't run. Look at Roseburg before the war, and before the lumber industry got good. Look at the tax table of the counties of the state for the last two years. Douglas county

## Hospital Council Of Red Cross Holds Meet Here

Forty representatives of nine Red Cross chapters gathered in the recreation room of the Veterans Administration hospital Roseburg, Wednesday to complete plans for Red Cross cooperatives.

The group was comprised mostly of volunteer workers who make up the hospital council serving the Roseburg and Medford installations.

Business of the day included a welcoming address by Dr. Haskins, hospital manager, and a talk by Miss Bloom, chief nurse. Red Cross field directors and Veterans Administration special services officers presented the needs of their respective VA facilities, and the chapter representatives discussed ways and means of fulfilling the requests.

Each chapter group accepted responsibility for meeting the need for comfort and decorative articles that could be supplied through the efforts of production corps and Junior Red Cross workers. Financial responsibility was accepted by some chapters, and it was undertaken to supply each hospitalized veteran with a small gift.

Chapters represented were Douglas, Coos, Josephine, Jackson, Klamath, Lane, Benton and Polk. Representatives from Siskiyou, Calif., and Curry and Linn counties in Oregon were prevented by weather and distance from attending.

Those present from the local chapter were Mrs. Edward Titcomb, volunteer services chairman; Miss Ruth Swinney, Junior Red Cross chairman; Mrs. Robert Harris; Mrs. Jack Meyers; Douglas Simms, executive secretary; and Robert Kidder, VA special services representative.

Highlight of the meeting were the addresses by Dr. Haskins and Chief Nurse Bloom, who expressed appreciation for the past services of Red Cross and all other volunteer groups engaged in the hospital volunteer services program.

An appeal was made for yet more volunteers who would be willing to give service at the hospital. It was the opinion of all present that the past year's program had been beneficial and worthwhile and one which was greatly enjoyed by all participants.

The National Geographic Society says American craftsmen have recaptured the lost medieval methods of staining glass.

## OSC Graduate To Supervise Atomic Plant Project

RICHLAND, Wash. (AP)—An Oregon State college graduate will supervise a multi-million dollar building program scheduled to get underway at the Hanford atomic plant early in 1950.

W. E. Johnson was named by G. R. Prout as the new head of the design and construction division at Hanford. Prout is a vice-president of the General Electric corporation and general manager of the nucleonics department.

As head of design and construction, Johnson will direct a \$185,000,000 expansion and development program at the atomic energy plant.

Johnson joined the General Electric company shortly after graduating from Oregon State college with a degree in mechanical engineering nearly 20 years ago.

He succeeds F. R. Creedon as head of the department.

## PHONE 100

between 6 15 and 7 p. m., if you have not received your News-Review.

Ask for Harold Mobley

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"Sorry, madam, your watch is not guaranteed to run!"

If you have a watch that is guaranteed everything, but will not run, this is for you.

So often we see watches advertised as "precision built," "multi-jeweled," "guaranteed waterproof and shockproof," in fact, guaranteed everything but TO RUN. Let's get old fashioned for a minute; to know whether a watch is going to run is pretty important.

You CAN'T tell if a watch is going to keep good time by:

1. Looking at the design,
2. by buying a well known brand,
3. by paying a lot of money for the alleged "best" or
4. by buying one that is "guaranteed everything" but to run.

These factors have little or nothing to do with a watch's running consistency.

You can tell if the watch you buy will run if you:

1. Buy it from a jeweler who is capable and willing to make any initial adjusting to keep the watch running properly.

A small part of the price you pay for your watch is actually an adjustment fee paid by you to the jeweler for any initial adjustments necessary to make the watch run properly.

In short we want to advertise this fact:

You can buy the watch you think is the best, from the jeweler who sells that kind. If he backs up what he sells—you will get good service from your watch.

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You can buy ANY watch from Knudtson's. We see to it that every watch we sell keeps good time. This is nothing new—this has been our policy for 55 years.

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