

Highway Commission Sets 1950 Plans, Reviews Year

By RALPH WATSON
State Highway Department

As the year 1949 draws to a close, the State Highway Commission reports that, in dollar value, its activities for the year have exceeded those of any preceding year. Its income has amounted to \$26,006,000 and its disbursements have totalled \$34,303,000.

Of the amount disbursed, \$12,034,000 was used in the maintenance of the 7,300 miles of highways which comprise the State Highway system, and of that amount, \$2,000,000 represented cost of unusual frost damage to state roads during the winter of 1948-49. \$18,080,000 was used in highway construction, including the purchase of right-of-ways.

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\$1,236,000 was expended for other capital investment items such as equipment, buildings and acquisition of parks. \$2,953,500 was used for such purposes as administration, operation of state parks, conduct of the travel information service, debt service, operation of drawbridges and ferries, etc.

From Gas Tax
Income for the year has been derived by \$19,506,000 from gasoline tax, motor vehicle registration fees, motor transport fees, and other road-user imposts, and \$6,500,000 from federal aid allotments. Revenues from the gasoline tax, motor vehicle registration fees, motor transport fees and other road-user imposts totalled, for the year, \$31,335,000, but of this total \$5,558,000 was, in accordance with law, allotted to the counties for use on county roads. \$4,108,000 was allotted to cities for use on city streets and \$1,035,000 was allotted to the State Police department for its work in the policing of roads. An additional \$1,128,000 was loaned to counties, as required by law, to be used by them in the repair of unusual frost damage suffered by county roads during the winter of 1948-49.

Past Funds Used
The fact that disbursements for the year have exceeded income for the same period by approximately \$8,300,000 has been made possible by utilization during the year of a part of the funds which were accumulated during the war years when construction activities were of necessity deferred. Of these funds approximately \$2 million remain unexpended at the end of 1949.

Actions taken by the State Legislature at its 1949 session, in increasing the gasoline tax and the motor vehicle registration fee, did not operate to increase state highway income in 1949 above what it would have been under old rates due (1) to the increase in registration fee not becoming effective until Jan. 1, 1950, (2) to the increase in gasoline tax not reflecting itself in actual receipts into the state highway fund until October of 1949, (3) to a reduction in motor transportation fees and (4) to a required advancing of the time at which the cities are paid their shares of the motor vehicle income. It is expected that, in 1950, the increases in taxes and fees will gross \$7,900,000, of which the state's share will be \$5,600,000, the counties' share \$1,500,000 and the cities' share \$800,000.

Nearly Compensated
This increase will approximately compensate for the extra funds spent, since the war, from the

wartime accumulation previously mentioned. This wartime accumulation of funds will be exhausted in 1950 but the increased revenues beginning in 1950 will permit the State Highway Commission to maintain approximately the same rate of construction as was maintained during the past three years. The present rate of construction enables Oregon to "hold the line" in the program for adequate highways but estimates of the highway needs of the next 15 years as made by the Interim committee indicate the present rate of construction expenditures to be roughly two-thirds of sufficiency.

In 1950, an income of \$35,627,000 is anticipated and disbursements in the amount of \$36,955,000 are budgeted. Maintenance \$10 million. Maintenance of the amount to be disbursed, \$10,138,000 will be used in the maintenance of the State Highway system, \$20,676,000 will be used in highway construction, including the purchase of rights of ways.

\$2,837,000 will be expended for other capital investment items such as equipment, buildings, and acquisition of parks, and \$3,364,000 will be used for such purposes as administration, operation of state parks, conduct of the travel information service, debt service, operation of drawbridges and ferries, etc.

Income for the year will be derived by \$28,827,000 from gasoline tax, motor vehicle registration fees, motor transport fees, and other road-user imposts, and \$6,800,000 from federal aid allotments. Revenues from the gasoline tax, motor vehicle registration fees, motor transport fees and other road-user imposts are expected to total, for the year, \$40,715,000, but of this total, \$7,270,000 will, in accordance with law, be allocated to the counties for use on county roads. \$3,600,000 will be allocated to the cities for use on city streets and \$1,018,000 will be allocated to the State Police Department for its work in the policing of roads.

Progress Indicated
Satisfactory progress on federal aid programs is indicated by the fact that of the \$21,200,000 total program for the fiscal years 1950 and 1951, \$8,125,000 (38 percent) is under contract as of Jan. 1. Contracting of the balance of

Property Sale Ad In 1857 Lists Six Negro Slaves

Everything from slaves to a barrel of whiskey is listed in a bill of sale of personal property and farm equipment published in 1857 by an Oregon-bound pioneer from Kentucky.

A reprint of the original clipping was brought to the News-Review office by Mrs. John E. Pinkerton. Mrs. Pinkerton said she was a kin of the W. L. Moss, who advertised the property for sale.

The bill of sale states: "Having sold my farm and am leaving for Oregon Territory by ox team, will offer on March 1st, 1857, all my personal property to-wit:

"All ox teams except two teams Buck and Ben and Tom and Jerry, 2 milk cows, 1 gray mare and colt, 1 pair oxen and yolk, 1 baby yolk, 2 ox carts, 1 iron plow with wood mold board, 1500 10-ft. fence rails, 1 60-gallon soap kettle, 85 sugar troughs made of white ash timber, 10 gallons of maple syrup, 2 spinning wheels, 30 pounds mutton tallow, 1 large loom made by Jerry Wilson, 300 poles, 100 split hoops, 100 empty barrels, 1 32-gallon barrel of Miller-Johnson whiskey, 7 years old, 20 gallons apple brandy, 1 40-gallon copper kettle, 3 sides oak tanned leather, 1 dozen real hooks, 2 handle hooks, 3 scythes and cradles, one dozen wooden pitch forks, half interest in tan yard, 1 3-caliber rifle, bullet mold and powder horn, rifle made by Ben Miller, 50 gallons of soft soap, hams, bacon and lard, 40 gallon of sorghum molasses, 6 head of fox hounds, all smooth mouthed except one.

"At the same time I will sell my 6 negro slaves, 2 men, 35 and 50 years old, 2 boys, 12 and 18 years old, 2 malatto wenches, 48 and 30 years old. Will sell all together to some party who will not separate them.

"Terms of sale, cash in hand or note to draw interest with Bob McComin's as security.

"My home is two miles south of Versailles, Ky., on McComin's ferry pike. Sale begins at 8 o'clock a.m. Plenty to eat and drink W. L. Moss."

SUSPECT ARRESTED
KLAMATH FALLS, Dec. 30. — (AP)—Richard B. Robinson, 26, believed here to be wanted by Multnomah county officers on at least three charges, was taken into custody Wednesday at a Merrill motel.

Robinson, state police said, faces charges of car theft, obtaining money by false pretenses and bond-jumping. He allegedly skipped out on a \$2,000 bond.

This program will be completed by the early part of 1951.

In the advancement of the commission's highway improvement program, there were awarded during 1949 a total of 77 construction contracts. These contracts ranged in amount from \$4,950 to \$1,127,000, averaging \$173,500. In total, their amount was \$13,361,700.

Man, 107, Laughs Off Report He's Missing
OCEAN PARK, Calif., Dec. 30. — (AP)—Cipriano Chavez, 107, laughed when police found him and told him he had been reported missing.

"Oh, I can take care of myself," he smiled. "I was only looking for work."

His daughter, Mrs. Josephine Garcia, told officers Wednesday that Chavez had been working regularly as a gardener until this year.

"Then he was hit by a bus," she explained. "That slowed him down a little."

Born in Sinaloa, Mexico, in 1842, Chavez came here as a young man of 94.

Tax Payments Compared With Family Spending

WASHINGTON. — (AP) — American families pay out as much for federal income taxes as they spend on autos, furniture and home appliances—from television sets to vacuum cleaners.

A new Federal Reserve board report on consumer finances estimated that \$9 of each \$100 of income goes for federal income tax alone and the same amount goes into purchase of the listed items.

The board calculations, based on 1948 data obtained in a survey taken this year, figured around \$76 of each \$100 is taken by "other consumer expenditures."

Lumped in that category were outlays for food, housing, clothing, medical care, other essentials, state and local taxes, recreation, transportation, education, and goods from rugs to fur coats. The balance of the \$100 was credited to "net saving."

The federal income tax takes 13 per cent of the receipts of those in the top fifth of the income scale, the board noted. It ranges down to a one per cent share of the bottom fifth of incomes.

The reserve board figured that nearly one-third of the nation's \$50,500,000 "spending units"—lumped in that category were outlays for food, housing, clothing and pooling incomes for living costs—overspent their 1948 incomes.

But six out of 10 broke even—partly because they had no net egg to draw upon or no credit available—while another 63 man-

Missing Man Found Alive

FAIRBANKS, Alaska, Dec. 30. — (AP)—Mechanic Frank Williams, missing since Monday, was found alive Wednesday beside his crashed plane in a pass between Klana and Selawik, 387 miles west of here.

He was believed suffering from a broken leg.

Williams was flying to Kotzebue after spending Christmas with his family in Tanana.

aged to save a part of their receipts.

The median or middle-sized income of America's family units in 1948 was \$2,840 and savings amounted to \$75 or 3.5 per cent of income. The results differed by income brackets, however, working out like this:

Families in the \$6,000-a-year bracket saved \$610 or about ten per cent of their income.

For \$3,750 incomes, savings were \$235 or six per cent; for \$2,000 incomes, \$85 or four per cent. For lesser incomes, no savings.

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Oregon's Jayvees Plan Hoover Report Campaign

PORTLAND, Dec. 30. — (AP)—Oregon's junior chambers of commerce plan a January campaign to win public support for the Hoover report on reorganization of the federal government.

Duane D. Duke of Oregon City, president of the state council, said voters would be asked to write their congressmen and urge congressional action on the Hoover recommendations for government efficiency. He said the campaign would be called "Operation Economy."

The report of ex-President Herbert Hoover estimated the nation could save up to \$4,000,000,000 annually.

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