

# The News-Review

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## PLACING THE BLAME

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Listening to complaints about local taxes, we find many mistaken ideas among complainants.

The fact is that, aside from individual cases in which assessed valuations were raised during the year, increased levies, with few exceptions, came from additional levies voted by the taxpayers themselves.

School taxes accounted for the greater part of the increase in all taxing districts representing approximately 75 cents for each tax dollar. Municipal taxes, on the whole, showed little increase in rate of levy.

We find a great many taxpayers, however, blaming "the county" for their increased bills. Actually, the county administrative levy was below that of 1948, the millage being higher only because voters authorized a special 4-mill tax to be used to construct a county hospital.

The Myrtle Creek Mail, in a recent editorial, says that "additional costs made the Douglas county tax levy the highest in the state."

It adds:

People in this area are beginning to wonder what they are getting from the county for this increased amount of money required. Sure, they can see a couple of roads repaired and a little resurfacing done, but on the whole they feel they are getting little in this direction for the money they are spending.

It is true that the whole tax levied in Douglas county had a higher percentage of increase than in any other county of the state. But Douglas county also had a correspondingly high rate of increase in assessed valuation. It had the highest percentage of population increase in the state, with but one exception.

The Myrtle Creek Mail leaves the impression that blame for tax increase rests with the county government—an impression it doubtless did not intend, but one which seems to be shared by a large number of taxpayers.

Insofar as tax levies for purely county administration purposes are concerned, the Douglas county rate is lowest in the state.

For several years the cost of operating the county government has been paid with income derived from long-term contract sales of public timber and lands. County levies have been made only for road and bridge purposes. In 1948 the rate was 4.8 mills. For 1949 the rate was 8.5 mills, which included the 4-mill special hospital levy, leaving the rate for county administration purposes .3 of a mill lower than in 1948. Thus, by no stretch of the imagination, can the county court be held responsible for increasing taxes.

Tax increases stem principally from school district levies in general and the rural school district tax in particular. The rural school district law provides that for all districts, outside those of the first class, taxes shall be equalized. Thus the total school operational cost was lumped into one huge sum, then divided equally between districts. Some districts which previously had an extremely low tax, found their millage rate greatly increased. In only a few instances was there any decrease. In addition to the equalized tax, each district was taxed for its own capital investment in the form of new buildings and equipment.

Douglas county's rapid rate of growth has forced more than 100 per cent increase in school capacity upon some districts. The county's population, as a whole, has more than doubled in recent years, which perforce has doubled school attendance. Birth statistics show that classroom capacity must be doubled again within the next few years.

Personally, we believe it is time to start doing some serious thinking about methods of raising money to meet the forthcoming demand for more schools. Property, certainly, has reached about the limit of endurance.

We agree with the Myrtle Creek Mail in the statement that:

People who desire to locate plants of any description are not looking for places where their overhead is going to be the highest. If the county is expecting to attract more business and industry, it is high time to get its taxing structure in line.

But it should be realized that these increased taxes about which we complain are taxes we voted upon ourselves. We voted the rural school district and basic school taxes. We voted bonds for new school buildings. We voted increased budgets above the six per cent limitation to operate those schools.

If the county—and we might add the State of Oregon—is to get its taxing structure in line, it must be done by the people or their representatives.

We favor the best possible school system. We believe no money can be levied in taxes for a better cause. But let's realize the source of our problem and our own responsibility for it. And, too, let's realize that the cost is to be much heavier than at present and we had better be finding some means for raising the necessary money by a less painful process than direct taxes on property.

## MORE POTATOES, BUT

DAVIS, Calif.—(AP)—Fertilizing a potato field will produce more potatoes, but they won't be any richer than if you didn't, says Dr. O. A. Lorenz of the College

of Agriculture here. He analyzed chemically the potatoes from fertilized and unfertilized fields. Spud for spud, he found that they had about the same content of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash.

## Balance Of Power



## Scrapes from the MENDING BASKET

By Viahnett S. Martin

The tree definitely leaned towards the house. Not only that, but it is on the steep slope which begins at the house and rises to what we call "topside," a level, or fairly level hilltop above us. Maybe the snow did it. It was time to do something. We were thankful to remember that our neighbors on the hill are thoroughly familiar with trees and woods work. So E. J. trudged up to their place through snow, slush and rain.

Sure enough, said Mr. Littlepage, "the boys will tend to it." And after a while here came a couple of young men to look the situation over. They laughed at my anxiety, but conceded something ought to be done about the tree. They spoke most disparagingly about it as "too small to wedge," and the next thing I knew, one of the Littlepages was in the top of the "small" tree, swaying back and forth as he "topped" it. He went up that tree as casually as I'd sweep the front porch. It's nice to have neighbors like that!

When one lives in the country

it seems that the word "neighbor" has an ever-widening radius, and after a while the folks down on 99, and even across the railroad and up the two creek roads—they all seem neighbors, too. And on up 99 even as far as the over-head where the pioneer cemetery is, Comstock, where the Lawrence live. Since Mrs. Lawrence came to call and we visited about the early days here—most fascinating subject!—she seems a neighbor, too! I could tell about early days, too, but my stories would be of the lovely valley where once the Holland Purchase land was bought for \$1.50 per acre, in tracts of several thousand acres, then resold, by permission, at \$2 per acre.

I went to school with the descendants of those early settlers in Wyoming County (N.Y.) and my father's fathers helped make its history. I am glad that a group of business men in 1868 were enterprising enough, and had enough vision, to see the value of underwriting a history of the village. It is one of my most treasured possessions.

## March Of Dimes Containers To Be Placed This Week

Distribution of March of Dimes containers will be made by the Roseburg Active club Saturday. All the members who possibly can are urged to meet at the Greyhound depot for coffee, then pick up their containers at Henninger's Mart.

The drive officially opens Jan. 15, and the club intends to have the containers placed throughout the Roseburg area and as far north as Wilbur prior to that time. Containers this year represent an iron lung.

Club polo chairman Jim Oakley, at the meeting Thursday morning in the Shamalar, reported on the county chapter meeting which he attended Monday night.

Louis Adamsky reported the armory has been secured for the President's ball Jan. 27, which the Activists will sponsor under Dick Gilman's direction.

Other important business of the meeting was installation of officers. Glenn Jones was installed as president, succeeding Clarson Chitwood. Other officers installed by Gilman included Lowell Atterbury, vice-president; Ray Ward, secretary; Jay Clark, treasurer; Kenneth Atterbury, activator; Bill Gilman, historian, and Larry James, Frank Webster and Oakley, directors.

The club voted to hold an evening meeting next Thursday night at the Country club, when Dick Ring of Coos Bay, lieutenant governor of District 3, will make an official visit. Wives of members will be invited.

A board meeting was announced for next Tuesday noon at the Hotel Rose.

## CHECK ARTISTS WHOLESALE

CHICAGO—(AP)—A fellow tried to pass a bad check in a west side currency exchange. Manager Ted Borowski locked him in the cashier's cage. The chap dived through a window but soon was collared by the cops anyway. The police took him to the station and called Borowski.

"Come back," said Borowski. "I've got another one."

## Mental Health Assn. Plan For County Advances

Steps toward completing organization of the Mental Health association of Douglas county were taken at a meeting held in the Veterans hospital recreation building Monday night.

Dr. E. J. Walcott, heading the committee working on a constitution and by-laws, submitted recommendations which were approved by the 40 or more interested persons present.

The articles adopted stress that the organization is a citizens committee of Douglas county, banding together to attempt to develop an adequate program along the lines of preventing emotional mal-adjustments and to develop a better means of caring for those in need of psychiatric help.

The new group will eventually become a part of the state-wide program now being developed with the Portland unit as the nucleus of the movement. Eugene has had a similar organization for several months, and action to organize in other counties is in progress at this time.

A membership committee, headed by Mrs. Olive Doerner, will be active in the next two weeks securing added members for the group. Representatives of parent-teacher groups in Glendale, Myrtle Creek, Riddle, as well as the Roseburg Parent-Teacher association and various Roseburg clubs, attended.

The next meeting will be held Jan. 23 at the recreation hall of the Veterans hospital. At that time officers will be elected and the formal program for the group will be developed.

## Truck Tire Theft Case Continues On Trial

The trial of W. W. Wiser, charged by the grand jury with the theft of four truck tires, was continued in circuit court today, following the hearing of testimony from five witnesses for the state Wednesday.

Witnesses who appeared included State Policemen Robert J. Keefe, Robert C. White and Marvin Fredericks; Richard Backus, and Wiser's former employer, Lee Dilworth.

Backus is currently serving time in the state penitentiary for his confessed part in the alleged theft. He has been brought back to Roseburg to appear as a witness.

Wednesday's testimony attempted to show Wiser's connection with the tires in question. District Attorney Robert G. Davis is handling the state's case, while Wiser is being represented by Herbert W. Lombard of Cottage Grove and Ray B. Compton. The case is expected to go to the jury some time today.

## Magazine Pictures Police Of Oakland And Sutherland

A picture of the Oakland and Sutherland police appears in the December issue of the Northwest Peace Officer magazine. The caption states "The twin cities of Sutherland and Oakland, Oregon, have long enjoyed efficient police protection. Maybe the group above is the reason."

Shown in the picture are Ptm. Dave Pachette, Sutherland; Ptm. Jack Ham, Sutherland; ex-Chief Harold Goodrich, Sutherland; Sgt. G. W. McMullen, Oakland; Ptm. Joe B. Cole, Oakland, and Ptm. Chet Williams, Sutherland.

## Committee Heads For Jaycee Duty Appointed

At a recent meeting of the Junior Chamber of Commerce board of directors, the following were appointed to head permanent committees for 1950: John Hardiman, publicity; Glen Scott, civic; Don Gum, program; Charles Hart, finance; Walt Britzell, membership; John Fett, social; Wayne Crooch, athletics. An inter-club chairman will be appointed at a later date.

## JUDGMENT ON DEFAULT

F. L. Kummer was awarded \$1,328.67, plus costs by reason of default in a decree signed by Circuit Judge Carl E. Wimberly. Stanley E. Eiseemann and others were named as the defendants. The court further ordered that the mortgage on the defendants property be foreclosed and sold by the sheriff, the sum to be applied to the cost of the sale and payment of the judgment.

In addition, the plaintiff may become the purchaser in the foreclosure sale, and the plaintiff's mortgage is to have a prior lien on the property.

## Local News

Pythian Sisters to meet—Pythian Sisters will meet at 8 o'clock tonight at the K. of P. hall.

D.A.R. to Meet—D.A.R. will meet Monday night at 7:30 o'clock at the home of Mrs. William R. Anderson in West Roseburg with Mrs. C. L. Branton as co-hostess. Mrs. George M. Brown will be in charge of the program.

Returns to Los Angeles—Dr. O. R. Hess has returned to Los Angeles to re-enter the hospital for further medical treatment, following the holidays in Roseburg with his wife and their two children, Bob and Susan.

Ceremony Postponed—Zuleima temple, Daughters of Nile, ceremony, which was to have been held Saturday in Ashland, has been postponed due to weather conditions. The new date will be announced later.

Local Visitor—Mrs. W. L. Grove of Grants Pass is visiting her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Crane, and family on South Pine street until Sunday, when she will be joined by her husband and return to Grants Pass.

Accepts Employment—Edith Brown has accepted part time employment in the circulation department of the News-Review.

Assisting Mother—Mrs. Bob Fish and son, Mike, of Eugene are spending a week in Roseburg with Mrs. Fish's mother, Mrs. B. J. Schaefer, who is reported improving at her home after a long illness.

Committee Meeting—A meeting of all officers of the Camp Fire Guardians association and committee heads for the Father-Daughter Camp Fire banquet are asked to meet Monday at 1:30 p.m. at the Camp Fire office at Miller's Mercantile.

Club to Meet—The Oregon State College Mothers club will meet at 2 o'clock Monday at the home of Mrs. H. N. Jacobson, 935 Chapman street in Laurelwood with Mrs. Earl M. Bielle, co-hostess. Members, and those eligible to membership are invited.

Community Club to Meet—Deer Creek Community club will meet at the Dixonville auditorium Friday at 8 p.m. The committee in charge has asked those attending to bring cookies or sandwiches and their own cups. A program will be presented.

Club to Meet—Edenbower Community club will meet Friday night at 8 o'clock at the Edenbower schoolhouse. Mrs. Niday's third grade Bluebird group of Riverside school will present the program and serve the refreshments.

Unit to Meet—Rice Valley Home Extension unit will meet Friday afternoon at the hall. Mrs. Corinne McTaggart, county home demonstration agent, will discuss the topic, "Landscaping home grounds." Coffee and cookies will be served. All residents of the community are invited.

Out of Sanitarium—Mrs. Alice Rhoads, who has been a patient at the Roseburg sanitarium, receiving medical treatment, was discharged Wednesday and is convalescing at her home. Mrs. Ethel Davis, a sister of Henry F. Snyder of this city, has come from her home in Portland to care for Mrs. Rhoads.

At Cummins Home—Miss Jessie Miller of Gearhart plans to leave Friday for Portland to visit her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Miller Jr., before returning to her home in Gearhart. She has been spending the last month in Roseburg visiting her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Cummins, and family, on Reservoir avenue. Miss Miller returned to Oregon a few months ago, following a six months' tour of European countries.

Elliott's Home—Mr. and Mrs. Bruce C. Elliott and son, Arthur Logan, are back at their home in Roseburg, following a stay in Portland, where Mr. Elliott attended to business. While there, they visited Mrs. Elliott's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Rucker, and were accompanied home by Mrs. Elliott's sister, Mrs. Lucille Porsch, who plans to stay a week at the Elliott home before going to California for a visit.

Home From California—Mr. and Mrs. F. I. Betts have returned to their home on Winchester street in Roseburg, following three weeks near Redwood City, Calif., visiting their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Drummy (Vada Mae Betts) and their four children. Mr. Drummy is employed by United Airlines. Mr. and Mrs. Betts also visited relatives in Sunnyvale, Calif.

## Canyonville High To Offer All-School Play

Canyonville high school is presenting its all-school play Saturday night, Jan. 14, entitled "The Man In The Green Shirt." This three-act comedy is promised to be hilarious from start to finish. The cast includes Jennell Brown, Malvin Burwell, Barbara Conoin, Thetex Ford, Pat McNeese, Ardith Myers, Ernie Shipman, Dora Jean Springstead, Terrell Symens and Vernon Wheeler.

Trouble comes to the Fuller family as its life savings are lost on the day it loses its shirt-green shirt, that is, advance publicity states.

Charles Dowd is directing the production.

Returns From Portland—Edwin Nolte, manager of the Roseburg Montgomery Ward company store, returned here today, following a trip to Portland to attend a meeting of company managers.

**SPECIAL!**  
**REAL BUYS**  
See Page 9

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