

The News-Review

Published Daily Except Sunday by the News-Review Company, Inc.

Entered as second class matter May 1, 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

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES—In Oregon—By Mail—Per Year \$2.00 (in advance), less than three months \$1.50 By City Carrier—Per Year \$1.50 (in advance), less than three months \$1.00 Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per Year \$3.00, six months \$1.75, three months \$1.00.

HEADACHE IN MAKING

By CHARLES V. STANTON

It is exceedingly interesting to observe the enthusiastic way in which civic problems are attacked in the Lower Umpqua community.

Only a few years ago that area was continually crying that it was neglected, discriminated against, forgotten and unwanted. It had a decided inferiority complex.

But a few active citizens got busy, built up civic pride, organized chambers of commerce and civic clubs, brought about cooperative effort between all of the neighboring communities and, as a result, has produced an outstanding record of progress.

A demonstration of how the Lower Umpqua area "clicks" was presented last Saturday when representatives of all communities and groups came together at Winchester Bay for a discussion of needed recreational development.

Naturally, there were differences of opinion. Some conflict existed between projects. Everyone had an opportunity to speak his mind. Each project was presented for discussion.

After all phases of the problem had been explored, a nine-man committee was named to work out a master plan, and we are quite sure that when the committee completes its work it will have the unanimous support of everyone concerned.

But what amazed us was that the committee was told to complete its report in 10 days. Usually when a civic committee is appointed it is not expected to organize in much less than 10 days. But the new committee was hard at work before we left the building in which the meeting was held.

Big Season Anticipated This Summer

We really have a big headache ahead of us in the Winchester Bay program. Here is a recreational development growing so fast that we can't begin to keep up with demand.

Last year, for instance, carefully-kept records listed 18,600 angler days. That does not mean 18,600 individual fishermen, for some fishermen were repeaters, but the actual fishing intensity was equal to 18,600 anglers each fishing one day. This year the figure will jump to 25,000 at least. Records show 7,400 boat days, a figure expected to increase to more than 10,000. Checks of car registrations showed 30 per cent out-of-state licenses.

Accommodations Said To Be 70 Per Cent Short

Winchester Bay doesn't have enough cabins to accommodate the recreationists thronging the resort. It does not have nearly enough parking space for motor vehicles. There is a shortage of rental boats and motors. Facilities are lacking for unloading and loading skiffs hauled to the bay by anglers. Moorage capacity is lacking for the hundreds of skiffs crowding the bay during the peak of the season. In all, according to estimates, Winchester Bay has only about 30 per cent of the accommodations and facilities actually needed. More boats and more cabins will be available this year, but there also will be more visitors. Plans made at Saturday's meeting are expected to help the parking problem as well as improve facilities for handling boats.

Recreation Paying Its Own Way

Many people perhaps do not realize the value of our recreational asset. We've been living too close to the finest recreation in the world to appreciate its worth. But at Saturday's meeting figures were presented to show that the Winchester Bay development resulted in \$231,000 worth of new construction during the year. This property is taxable and will, alone, pay enough taxes this year to more than offset the \$10,000 appropriated in the 1949-50 county budget for recreational purposes.

The county gets tax money from improvements to land. The federal government, state and county share in gasoline taxes—and a lot of gasoline is burned around Winchester Bay. The federal government collects an excise tax on fishing tackle. Licenses and taxes are collected on boats. Altogether the Winchester Bay sports season produces many thousands of dollars in taxes.

The more money we spend to develop our recreational assets and increase their use, the more we get back through taxation.

The Government Spends \$80 Million Per Month To Help People Buy Homes

By G. MILTON KELLY

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The government is putting out \$80 million a month to help people buy homes.

With the volume on the upgrade—and the end not in sight—Congress is looking for a way to shift some of the burden back to private investors.

Here's what's happening: Under certain conditions, the Federal Housing Administration and the Veterans Administration insure banks against taking a loss on loans which go into home purchases and construction.

The FHA figures that it is insuring loans running to \$350 million a month. Of this, \$200 million a month is to help people buy dwelling places. Veterans loans under the GI bill run to \$80 million.

Another government agency, the Federal National Mortgage Association, was created by Congress to buy FHA and VA insured mortgages from private investors, so that the investors would have

more money to lend. Of the \$2,500,000,000 with which it started out, FNMA has \$8.0 million left, and private investors are turning in their FHA and veterans insured mortgages at a rate which, FNMA says, hit \$80 million in December. Easier Plan in Making The FHA says it is working on a bill now, at the invitation of the

Designed For Peace



Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

Sales Tax Would Have Eased Load (Grants Pass Courier)

Members of the Grants Pass Lions club, if they didn't know it before, must have been fully aware that Oregon is facing a tough battle to maintain adequate school facilities after they heard the speech by Rex Putnam, state superintendent of schools, Tuesday night.

A doubled native birth rate, an in-migration which exceeds in percentage of population any other state in the union and a shrunken dollar value all have combined to overtax the state's school facilities now and in the foreseeable future, the state head emphasized.

After hurling statistics at his audience which disclosed the present swollen school population and the prospects of a still heavier load during the next decade, the speaker snapped his hearers to attention by declaring, "At that, there is more money being spent in Oregon each year for intoxicating liquors than for school facilities."

The speaker paid tribute to the many communities which are taxing themselves to the legal limit to provide adequate schooling for their own or their neighbor's children, but revealed that some of them still are far short of classrooms and teachers. They can't now meet a situation which is bound to get worse, he observed.

Here are some of the statistics presented: In 1933 there were 12,228 births in Oregon; in 1948 there were 36,190. In one year, ending June 30, 1948, 81,000 persons settled in Oregon. Conservatively estimating one school child to each six new residents, 120 new classrooms would be required to accommodate them. There was an increase of 73,447 in the school census from 1940 to 1947.

"The state school head called attention to the fact that there is a considerable time lag before new residents become actual taxpayers, even though they purchase taxable property. Their children

enter school immediately, however. Persons familiar with the Oregon tax structure agree that the base now is too narrow to meet the demands for tax revenues at the various levels. What they can't do is find a satisfactory means of widening that base.

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There is only one other major source of revenue which reaches both taxable property owners and others and that is a sales tax. For various reasons, Oregon has consistently refused to adopt a sales tax, in contrast to most other states and many lesser political subdivisions.

Soaps from the MENDING BASKET

By Vianett S. Martin

"It's a good thing you had me dig it up" writes one owner of an old coverlet "because the moths had started nibbling it—not too bad yet, so holes clear through it. I washed it one time and the red ran into the white a little on the edges. Guess it wasn't a good drying day but I think that will clear up if I wash it again."

The old red and white coverlet is a hundred years old. Precious, I am sure, to some people! But the writer continues: "We don't use it because it's too heavy if we leave it on at night, and too much bother if we take it off. Anyway I don't care much about antiques. . . but my daughter B—does. I'll ask her if she wants it! And also ask her to send you a color photo of it."

This particular coverlet was commercially woven, as many were after the Jacquard looms came into use. But even if the original owner "only carded and spun the wool in it," that industrious housewife put no small amount of work into it! The same writer also says: "I have some fine woolen blankets that my father's mother

wove herself from wool raised right on the farm."

Another writer Mrs. J. J. K. describes a lovely old coverlet with that authentic touch so valued by people interested in such treasures. In two corners, so that the coverlet may be reversed, in a squarely arranged lettering:

A KUMP HANOVER 1843 C. S. SHUEY.

I am trying now to identify the pattern accurately with an expert on Pennsylvania coverlets. This work takes time (and a lot of postage, so will the ones who write me have patience until they hear further than the postal acknowledging the receipt of their letters. It is indeed a labor of love!

Another coverlet is all white, "embroidered in a crewel effect" and came to Oregon in a covered wagon in 1849 with the writer's great-grandmother, Mrs. Hoy Flourney, so writes its proud owner, Mrs. D. H.

But—more later on! Do send a snapshot (hang it over clothesline if no better way occurs to you) to make the work of identifications surer and easier!

Colossus of the South

The Oregonian

If the 1950 census confirms census estimates, California will formally take rank as the second most populous state in the nation. The economic impact of this startling fact on Oregon and Washington is emphasized by one of California's literary sons, Carey McWilliams, in his new book, "California: The Great Exception," published this month by A. A. Wyn & Co.

Mr. McWilliams points out that suddenly the Pacific Northwest has a massive "new market at its doorstep." This market has more people than all of New England, almost as many as Canada. And the author adds that Oregon lumber, beef and cheese, once shipped 2,000 miles to the Great Lakes, now go in increasing quantities to California.

Carey McWilliams quotes, with indorsement, our own Leverett Richards' description of the west states: "Washington represents the head and shoulders, the heart and trunk are Oregon, and California is the elongated leg."

However, the writer notes one sharp difference in California. Oregon and Washington each has an "east of the mountains." Eastern Oregon is vital to this state. Washington's Inland Empire contains Spokane and Grand Coulee dam. But east of the Sierra live only a scattering of California's 10,600,000 residents. The bulk of the colossus to our south lies along the seaboard which slants to the Pacific.

Loans Obtained By 65,000 Vets In Northwest

World War II veterans living in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska have obtained 60,607 G. I. loans for the purchase of homes and farms, or for business purposes, the Veterans Administration reveals. There are approximately 470,000 World War II veterans living in the area.

Total of the loans approved for veterans by the VA since March 28, 1946, has come to \$294,034,278, as follows:

Washington, \$192,090,263; Oregon, \$61,366,654; Idaho, \$22,545,383; Montana, \$17,320,551; Alaska, \$711,427.

Ninety-five per cent of the loans were used to finance home purchases, the VA said.

The VA coupled its announcement with a reminder to veterans who have not yet used their G. I. loan entitlement that they have until July 25, 1957, to use this benefit—plenty of time to shop around for a good value before getting a G. I. loan.

The agency pointed out that it does not actually make loans to veterans. Veterans should apply directly to a bank, savings and loan association or other lending institution for their loan.

Veterans should furnish the lender with their original discharge papers when applying for a G. I. loan, the VA advised.

It is estimated that more than 90 percent of the energy used in the United States is applied through machines.

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Attention, Craftsmen!
Linoleum block printing will be the craft for this month in the "Y" craft classes, which meet every Tuesday, at 7:30 p. m., in the Methodist church social rooms. Any adult interested in learning this craft is invited to attend. The cost for the program is only for the material used.

HONOR WORDSWORTH
COCKERMOUTH, England—(AP)—"A host of golden daffodils" such as poet William Wordsworth wrote about is expected to bloom here for the centenary of his death April 23. School children planted more than 1,000 daffodil bulbs on vacant land overlooking the River Cocker in this Cumberland fishing village where Wordsworth was born.

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POLICE PREACH SAFETY
CHICAGO—(AP)—The newest Chicago police squad is known as the "briefcase brigade." There are eight officers in it. They pack up charts and statistics and go out and preach the gospel of traffic safety before church, school, club, labor union and other groups. The missionary work is a phase of the city's campaign against motor vehicle deaths.

Eight states in central U. S. produce virtually all American popcorn.