

## Tax Proposal On Farmland Is Opposed

Agricultural Chairman Emery Baker took a strong stand at the last meeting of the Evergreen Grange against a proposed method of zoning farmland discussed at a meeting of the Taxation and Finance Committee in Roseburg.

He said the method would call for setting a higher tax rate on river bottom land and a lower bracket on hill land.

He claimed this was not fair to the farmer because much of the "so-called river bottom land" is actually worthless and cannot be farmed. He said also that hill land often produces the largest yield of crops.

He also took exception to the classification of heavy farm ma-

chinery as personal property. He said it was suggested that the machinery might be rented but he claimed this is impractical because all farmers would need the equipment at about the same time.

He said what is needed are "laws with more heart and less legal exactitude."

At the same meeting, Margaret McCord gave a brief outline of bills the state grange is working on.

It was also decided at the meeting to ask the State Highway Dept. to widen the shoulders of the road at the grange because of their narrowness which does not allow cars to pull off the road to permit traffic to pass.

Lecturer Garnet Folsbee told of her trip to the state lecturers school.

In the line of entertainment, Lee Wilson sang and gave a comedy routine. Wilma Harty won the first prize in a game. Thirty-five members and two visitors attended.

The next meeting, preceded by a 6:30 p. m. potluck is slated March 22.

### EARTHQUAKE HITS

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP)—An earthquake shook a wide area between Christchurch and Wellington Wednesday. No serious damage or casualties were reported.

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## Citizens Committee Opposes State Bill

Three members of the Douglas County Citizens Committee were in Salem Monday to take a stand against the pending mandatory planning commission bill before the House Local Government Committee.

Speaking against the bill (HB-329) and another bill relating to zoning, land use and other regulations of lands (hb327) were: President Charles Hall of the county committee; Executive Secretary Mrs. Grant Cross; and Floyd Sconce.

Mrs. Cross said the committee's delegation pointed out "specific inequities brought about by planning commission personnel."

Rep. Al Flegel is vice chairman of the committee.

The bill on creation of planning commissions drew support from County Judge Raymond A. Lathrop of Josephine County, president of the State Assn. of County Judges.

## Lawmakers Of Alaska Renew Statehood Plea

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—With restrained optimism, the territorial House and Senate Monday passed identical resolutions urging statehood for Alaska this March 30.

March 30 marks the 90th anniversary of the conclusion of the treaty of cession of Alaska from Russia. The resolution would designate the anniversary as "Liberation Day."

The day is now Seward Day, in honor of the secretary of state who engineered the 1867 purchase of Alaska from Russia for \$7,200,000—at less than two cents an acre.

**Camas Valley Youngster Discovers Spring Flower**

Garry Baker, 12-year-old son of Mrs. Ford Baker of Camas Valley, today became another herald of spring.

With tender care, he unveiled one of the first lady slippers of the year to be reported. He found it in the woods three miles west of Camas Valley.

## Centennial Money Request Pondered By Legislators

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.

SALEM (AP)—A \$1,100,000 appropriation to finance Oregon's proposed centennial celebration in 1959 was sought in the Legislature Tuesday. But it was headed for a long, hard look in the money-short Joint Ways and Means Committee.

The bill, sponsored by 28 representatives and six senators, would finance the trade fair that the Oregon Centennial Commission has recommended be held in Portland to observe the 100th anniversary of statehood. The north-west states and countries on the Pacific Ocean would be invited to take part.

The commission said it expects to be able to repay the \$1,100,000 and make a profit besides.

Sen. Alfred H. Corbett (D), Portland, chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, said that the Joint Ways and Means Committee would hold hearings on the proposal.

"We will have to know more about the plans, including possible sites, before we could act on the request. But we all want to see the trade fair held."

**Action On Bills**

Floor action remained at the minimum Tuesday.

The Senate passed and sent to the House a bill providing that gifts of securities to a minor can be sold, exchanged or invested by the minor's custodian, without having to set up a trust or guardianship.

The House approved and sent to the Senate a measure providing that no subpoena or judicial order shall compel the tax commission to disclose information on a tax return, except in cases where the court is determining the taxpayer's liability to the state.

Rep. Clarence Barton (D), Coquille, chairman of the House Taxation Committee, introduced a bill to stop evasion of personal property taxes. His bill provides a 25 per cent penalty when a taxpayer omits his tax, or understates the value 10 per cent or more.

**Assessors Denied Peek**

At the same time, the House defeated 32-26 a bill to give county assessors access to income tax records on which personal property is reported. This would have enabled the assessors to get clues about personal property on which taxes are not being paid or where the value is understated.

The Senate Elections Committee announced it would hold a public hearing at 9 a. m. March 19 on a proposed constitutional amendment to have 31 senators and 61 representatives, thus adding a member to each house. The purpose is to stop deadlocks such as occurred this session when the Senate was tied up 11 days in choosing a president.

**Acres Goal Simplified For Chinese Airmen**

TAIPEI (AP)—Chinese Nationalist airmen Tuesday were told of a dozen or so ways they can become "aces"—none of them easy. Included were killing Communist Chinese chieftain Mao Tze-tung, sinking an enemy air carrier or shooting down an enemy plane equipped with atomic warheads.

KUDAMATSU, Japan (AP)—An express train Tuesday hit and killed a 71-year-old woman. Moments later, at the same crossing, another express train going the other way hit and killed three children returning home from kindergarten.

## Bloomquists Sell Elgarose Farm

By MRS. THELMA HANSON

Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Bloomquist recently sold their farm in Elgarose to Mrs. Minnie Murphy of California.

Mrs. Murphy lived in this area before moving to California. Mr. and Mrs. Bloomquist had lived on the place since 1921, except a few years about 1939 when they lived in Roseburg. They had come from Minnesota. The Bloomquists will move into Roseburg.

**Return Home**

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Nelson and two children, Shirley and Bobbie, left Sunday for their home in Veblin, N.D., after visiting the past three weeks with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Nelson, of Elgarose and Mr. and Mrs. Norman Nelson of Oakland. While they were here Mr. and Mrs. Richard McCready of Klamath Falls visited with them one weekend.

Mrs. Edna Sjogren and son, Dick, returned to their home Sunday afternoon after spending the weekend visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Milo Howard and family.

Roy Sjogren, son of Fritz Sjogren, joined the National Guard recently.

**Stays With Kin**

Jon Holmquist, small son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Holmquist of Eugene, spent several days with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Holmquist, this past week while his parents were moving into their new home in Eugene. His father came after him Sunday afternoon.

Joe Sand, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sand Sr. was home from Oregon State College last weekend. He returned to his studies Tuesday.

Glenn Sand, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sand left Monday to attend a FFA convention at La Grande.

## Oakland Teachers Offered Contracts

The Oakland school board has offered contracts to 24 teachers in the district, according to correspondent Edith Dunn.

It also has received the resignations of George Jackson, shop teacher, and Miss Florence Kellogg, high school librarian. Previously, Mrs. Minnie Smith, first grade teacher, and Mrs. Isabel Page, third grade teacher, resigned.

At the annual public hearing on the budget, only two patrons turned up. A report was given on the lunch program at the meeting.

Among Oakland teachers attending the Oregon Educational Assn. convention in Portland this week are: Supt. Guy Lutz, Kenneth Williams, Cecil Barnett, Mr. and Mrs. George Jackson, Mrs. Ida Leeper, Mrs. Vesta Cota, Mrs. Doris Neely and Mrs. Agnes Wilcox.

The Oakland Parent-Teachers Assn. meeting has been scheduled for Monday night at the Washington School gym. A hobby show for boys has been slated.

**Field Representative Speaks To Methodists**

Mrs. Elizabeth Heinline, field representative of the woman's division of the Methodist Church board of missions, spoke at the Wesleyan Service Guild at a recent meeting of the First Methodist Church Elizabeth Heinline Wesleyan Service Guild.

Miss Carol Trimble presided over the meeting which was held at the church social hall. Mrs. Doris Lee Cooksey led singing.

A coffee hour was held after the meeting with Miss Trimble and Mrs. George Felt pouring. Mrs. Roy D. Anderson was in charge of the program.

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		7		

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