AUTOMOBILE NEWS of the WEEK

BRITISH DRIVER FEARS HIGH TAX

Autoist's Purse Threatened by Gasoline Tax of 16 Cents a Gallon.

By Tom Wilhelm

LONDON, Mar. 28 (AP)—An additional gasoline tax of 8 cents a gallon, doubling the present rate, is confronting British motorists.

The measure is being discussed unoficially in parliamentary circles, almost a certain indication that the exchequer plans to ask for this additional revenue.

American who may wonder why so many of their British cousins ride bicycles or motorcycles, or drive the tiny cars known in the United States as "road bugs," will find the explanation in English gas prices and license fees.

Gasoline of medium grade now costs (with the present tax) 32 cents a gallon in the larger cities and up to 45 cents in outlying neighborhoods. Adding another 8 cents would make motor fuel range from 40 to 53 cents for a British standard gallon, which is 20 per cent larger than the American measure.

To offset the added gas tax, the government is proposing that the annual license fee of $4.86 per horsepower be reduced one-fourth.

Just what the annual fee means to the motor car owner can be learned by simple arithmetic. Hundreds of thousands of Americans of moderate means operate cars of 40 horsepower. In England they would pay close to $200 a year for their license plates.

One popular American automobile, sold generally with standard 24-horsepower motor, is offered to English customers with an optional engine of 14 horsepower at an additional cost of $25. The added cost is saved twice over in the reduced license for the first year.

Drain Anti-Freeze From Car At End Of Cold Season

Failure of motorists to drain the anti-freeze from their cars at the end of the season of cold weather often leads to overheating and subsequent damage, according to A. E. Shearer, manager of the emergency road service department of the Oregon State Motor association, who points out that to leave the anti-freeze in the car after the advent of warmer weather is comparable to the danger of allowing the car to freeze.

"Motorists should realize," a report from the emergency road service department says, "that overheating is one of the principal causes of serious engine trouble, including scored cylinders, piston seizure, bearing destruction and valve deterioration. Therefore, the value of keeping the cooling system working properly is apparent."

Motorists also are warned of the necessity for cleansing the cooling system after the anti-freeze is drained from the car, and the following suggestions are offered:

Putting the car in perfect condition at this season of the year involves, first, draining the anti-freeze. After this is done, the whole system should be flushed out with a sal-soda solution which will remove the scale and rust from the inside of the radiator and water jackets. Then, a thorough flushing with pure water should follow to eliminate the soda solution before the radiator is refilled with clean water.

Criminal Boasts of "Touching" Lauder

MELBOURNE, Australia, Mar. 28 (AP)—A prisoner who pleaded guilty to obtaining money under false pretences in criminal court here yesterday boasted that he had "touched" Sir Harry Lauder, Scotch comedian, for over $1,200 during Sir Harry's recent visit to Melbourne.

521 Industrial Accidents in Week

SALEM, Mar. 28 (AP)—Two fatalities were reported to the state industrial accident commission resulting from accidents during the past week. They were E. W. Lane, Woodburn bridge laborer, and N. C. Enevoldsen, of Birkenfeld. There were 521 industrial accidents reported during the week.

SYNOPSIS OF THE ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS INSURANCE CO. of The Hague, in the Kingdom of Holland, on the 31st day of December, 1930, made to the Insurance commissioner of the State of Oregon, pursuant to law:

CAPITAL	
Amount of capital stock paid up, statutory deposit (1)	$ 200,000.00
INCOME	
Net premiums received during the year (17)	$ 826,427.92
Interest, dividends and rents received during the year (21-22-24)	63,172.46
Income from other sources received during the year (23-25)	168,924.55
Total income	$ 1,058,524.87
DISBURSEMENTS	
Net losses paid during the year including adjustment expenses (13-14)	$ 441,504.06
Dividends paid on capital stock during the year	0.00
Commissions and salaries paid during the year (15-17a-18)	377,062.06
Taxes, licenses and fees paid during the year (24-25)	49,409.26
Amount of all other expenditures (16-17B-C-19-20-21-22-23-26-27-28-29-32-34-40)	130,592.46
Total expenditures	$ 998,574.86
ASSETS	
Value of real estate owned (market value)	$ 0.00
Value of stocks and bonds owned (market value)	1,485,470.00
Loans on mortgages and collateral, etc.	0.00
Cash in banks and on hand	115,965.39
Premiums in course of collection written since September 30, 1930	168,286.05
Reinsurance recoverable on paid losses and other items	15,307.26
Interest and rents due and accrued	18,163.49
Total admitted assets	$ 1,803,292.19
LIABILITIES	
Gross claims for losses unpaid	$ 74,395.07
Amount of unearned premiums on all outstanding risks	684,390.45
Due for commission and brokerage	1,590.00
All other liabilities	31,193.05
Total liabilities, exclusive of capital stock (statutory deposit) $200,000.00	$ 791,478.57
BUSINESS IN OREGON FOR THE YEAR	
Net premiums received during the year	$ 1,278.78
Losses paid during the year	12,337.90
Losses incurred during the year	11,195.59

Name of company, The Netherlands Insurance Company.

Name of U. S. manager, Robert R. Clark.

Statutory resident attorney for service, commissioner of insurance.

Baker to Grade Market Road In Huntington Area

BAKER, Ore., Mar. 28—The county is moving its tractor and grader to Huntington from Durkee, where a crew of men has completed grading two miles of road. A crew will start graveling the two mile section west of Durkee next week.

The grading crew will start work Friday on the Huntington-Robinette road. The workmen will widen the road and construct "turn-out" places.

Work on the cut-off road from the Flagstaff hill to Keating was graded last year and will be "dressed up" this spring. The crew will also work on the section from Keating up the river to the Medical Springs road, a section of the cut-off.

Judges Charles E. Baird, Commissioner Armand Perkins and County Engineer Robert Leep went to Sumpter this morning and to Huntington this afternoon on road business.

NEW ROADS TO OPEN MEXICO FOR TOURISTS

Alive to the importance of modern highways as a means of attracting tourist dollars, the Mexican government is engaged in a program of road construction which when completed, will link the principal cities of the republic with each other and with the border cities of the United States. Advices received by the Oregon State Motor association indicate, however, that considerable time must elapse before tourists may venture conveniently over the new roads.

While Mexican officials have announced that the highway extending southward from Laredo will be opened in about six months, the association points out that when the road is opened, as announced, it will be opened provisionally and that it will be but a narrow dirt trail south of Ciudad Victoria to Pachuca. This section will be one over which only the adventurously inclined motorist and skillful driver will be able to travel. This is in contrast with the mental picture the average tourist forms of a new road—a wide, hard-surfaced highway with no grades steeper than a railroad. It probably will be about three years before the picture becomes a reality on the Laredo-Mexico City road. A relatively passable graveled road may be expected in about a year and a half, provided there is no slackening in the present construction program.

835,000 Accidents During Year 1930

NEW YORK, Mar. 28 (AP) — There were more than 835,000 automobile accidents in the United States last year, and they killed 32,500 persons and injured 962,000, the Travelers Insurance company reported.

Deaths increased 4.5 per cent over 1929. New York state went contrary to the general tendency, reporting 3,074 fatalities, a decrease of 3.1 per cent.

To Build Park On Humbug Mountain

SALEM, Mar. 28 (AP) — The state highway department Friday announced receipt of the patent for 290 acres on Humbug mountain in Curry county for use as a recreational and park site by the state of Oregon. The patent was issued the state by the federal government under the provisions of the park and recreational act of 1926.

The Oregon coast highway skirts the park site on the mountain which overlooks the ocean. The land will be held by the state until such time as it is developed for park purposes, it was announced.

Government Fines Chamberlin $50

WASHINGTON, Mar. 28 (AP)—Clarence Chamberlin, transatlantic flier, yesterday was fined $50 and rounded by the aviation section of the commerce department for flying a plane with an expired license.

Chamberlin's ground sentence of one week becomes effective immediately.

He was charged with flying with an expired license after the inspector had summoned the flier on a charge of flying below the minimum altitude over New York bay.

Oregon To Get $1,344,741 For Forest Highways

PORTLAND, Ore., Mar. 28—Oregon will receive $1,344,741 out of the allocation of $9,500,000 in forest highway funds to be expended in 33 states and territories in the fiscal year 1932, according to announcement issued by the regional forester.

The total for the United States is the same as that available for the current fiscal year, which in point of highway construction on the national forests is to set a new record. The 1931 program is being rushed to aid in relief of unemployment, as well as to open up national forest areas to use and to facilitate protection of forest and watershed against fire, according to the regional forester.

Oregon ranks second of all the states in total amount receved, being exceeded only by California. The funds are used in the states having national forest lands within their boundaries and apportioned on a basis of acreage and value of these forests. Construction and maintenance of forest highway is handled by the bureau of public roads.

The highway-building program for the national forests was more than doubled for the current year, $5,000,000 having been added by congress to the amount appropriated annually in recent years. Reports from many communities indicate that road building in the national forests is proving helpful in relieving the local unemployment situation.

The forest highways are first-class roads, generally linking up with state highway systems. The forest service is also expending $3,000,000 on forest development roads and trails within the national forests in fiscal year 1931, as part of an annual program of development and forest protection.

Portuguese Farms In Machine Age

LISBON (AP)—Taking a leaf from the soviet book, Portugal is teaching her peasant farmers to use tractors.

Increased use of the machines is credited with the size of the 1930 wheat crop which broke all records. It exceeded the 1929 yield by 3,375,000 bushels.

During a recent "national agriculture week," 865 open air meetings were held. The government campaigners who urged intensification of grain culture included President Carmona, the minister of agriculture and a number of other personages.

Hansen, Sargant Fight To a Draw

PORTLAND, March 28 (AP)—Johnny Hansen, Portland and Stanley Sargant, Vancouver, Wash., fought toe-to-toe in another of their "grudge" battles here last night. The referee called it a draw at the end of six rounds. Hansen was glad when the bout was over but Sargant took the latter three. It was a slugging match from start to finish and everything was used but the water bucket.

Al Gotthart and Jimmy Lee, lightweights went six rounds to a draw.

Red Millett, San Francisco middleweight, took a four round decision over Jimmy Clark, Seattle.

Bud Beale, Vancouver, Wash., won over Johnny Hays, The Dalles, four rounds. They are middleweights.

Tommy Walsh hammered out a four-round decision over Terry McCune in the curtain raiser.

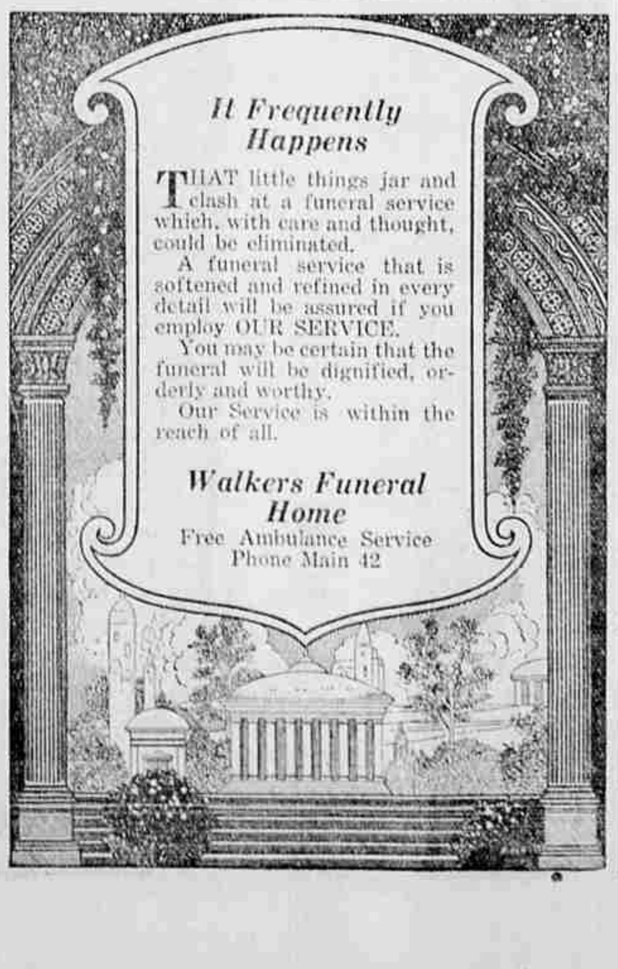
Dig Up Old Statue to Fight Gambling

PORTLALND, Ore., Mar. 28 (AP)—An all but forgotten statute, dating back to 1876, was envoked by the district attorney here yesterday in his fight to end gambling within Multnomah county.

Suit for $900, the equivalent of twice six months' rental on a little store on Fourth street, was filed in circuit court against the Wilson Investment company, reputed to be owners of the building.

The suit is based on the statute requiring that owners of premises where gambling is known to be conducted must forfeit twice the amount of rent collected from the premises over a six months' period.

The complaint charges the defendant leased the building knowing it would be used for gambling, and was aware or had reason to believe gambling games were being conducted on the premises during the term of the lease.



GAR WOOD CLAIMS WORLD SPEED BOAT RECORD

Associated Press Photo

Gar Wood claims the world's speed boat record for both the statute and nautical miles, with average speed over measured distances of 101.154 miles an hour for the statute mile and 102.256 miles per hour for the nautical mile. Both records were set with his 12-cylindered Miss America IX on Indian Creek at Miami Beach.

Ontario Legion Will Entertain At Convention

ONTARIO, Ore., Mar. 28 (AP)—Ontario Post No. 67 of the American Legion plans to entertain one of the largest interstate conventions at Ontario March 30 that has ever been staged in this vicinity.

Delegates from all of the Snake River valley posts of Idaho and Oregon will gather for meetings to be held with state officers from both states.

Committee chairmen are Wilmer Boyer, entertainment; Grover Francis, time and place, and Ray Larson, banquet.

The program follows: Conference of all ex-servicemen at the city hall at 3p. m.; banquet at IOOF hall at 7 p. m. followed by a dance at the Crystal ballroom at 9 p. m. to which the public is invited.

The meeting at the city hall in the afternoon is for all ex-service men and worthwhile messages are promised by department heads.

State officers include Commander Biggs, Adjutant Moser, District Commander Brady, the Idaho state commander and Lester F. Alberts, state adjutant of Idaho.

Drum Corps to Compete

Guests of honor at the banquet in the evening will include veterans of the Civil war and their wives, Major George K. Aiken and Mrs. Aiken and Rev. S. P. Hagler and Mrs. Hagler.

A drum corps competition is planned.

The auxiliary plans are along the same lines, with a meeting in the afternoon at the Guild hall at 3 p. m. Officers from Idaho and Oregon will be present.

Registration booths for the men will be at the IOOF hall and for the women at Mrs. Grover Francis's shop in the Moore hotel block.

Generally Speaking

Every person has at least one book in him, and generally speaking, it ought to remain there.—Rutland Herald.

KIDDLE GIVES TALK TODAY AT GRANGE MEET

By Wesley L. Hershey (Observer Correspondent)

ISLAND CITY, Ore. (Special) — Senator Fred Kiddle will speak at the Pomona grange meeting at Pleasant Grove today. He will talk about the legislative measures passed at the recent session. It is hoped that a large crowd will be present to hear his talk.

Mary Taylor, of Alicel, visited friends in Island City on Thursday. Miss Taylor spent the majority of the winter at the C. H. Bidwell home, but returned to her home about two months ago.

The Island City Ladies Aid meeting was held Thursday afternoon with Mrs. H. G. Avery as hostess. There were about 13 women in attendance and following the social hour, delightful refreshments were served by the hostess. The March and April committees completed final arrangements for the community chicken dinner which will be held at the church Friday evening.

Howard Smith injured his back early this week, and has been confined to his bed. He is recovering slowly.

Billy Mitchell, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Mitchell, has been very ill the last week with throat trouble. Others on the sick list include Mrs. John Dahlstrom who has been ill for the last week, and several children who are still out of school because of whooping cough.

Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Avery and two daughters, Katherine and Harriet Ann, were guests at the Luther Hindman home at Elgin on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Blokland entertained a group of friends at a potluck dinner Wednesday evening. Those in attendance were Mr. and Mrs. Renwick Clark, R. Ralph Clark, Clifford Blokland, Doris Cade, Lester Blokland and Mrs. Milo Blokland.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ditty, from Alicel, moved to the George Pierce place east of Island City this week. The place was purchased last fall but they spent the winter at Alicel.

Ex-Governor Walter Pierce, who is a member of the executive committee of the state grange, went to Salem this week to attend a meeting of this committee. Mrs. Pierce accompanied him on the trip.

Mrs. B. C. Dahlstrom, mother of John Dahlstrom is visiting her son and family this week.

The trustees of the Island City Cemetery association met on Monday of this week to discuss plans for repairs, etc.

Three Schools Are Destroyed by Fire

TRAIL, B. C., Mar. 28 (AP)—Three schools were destroyed by fire yesterday in the Doukhobor section between Nelson and Trail, and an attempt was made a burn a fourth. The North Kettle River school was added this forenoon to the Outlook and Sand Creek schools, whose destruction was reported earlier. An attempt to burn the Carson school failed.

Apparently the three fires were started simultaneously about 11:30 p. m. Thursday night. The North Kettle River building had not been used for a year or more.

A sack of oil-soaked chips with a fuse, and a bunch of matches attached was found on the porch of the Carson school. The attempt apparently followed the firing of the other schools, for the Carson building had been searched at midnight.

Fruitoval school, where a bombing attempt was made last year, was guarded last night.

Loses Factory Job But Wins $800,000

BUFFALO, N. Y., Mar. 28 (AP) — Clayton C. Woods didn't have to resign from his factory job when he won more than $800,000 in the Irish sweepstakes yesterday—he was fired as soon as he drew the ticket on Gregalach which placed second in the Grand National.

"Everybody stopped work to talk about my chances. Finally the boss said: 'Will you get out of here and stay out, so we can start work.'"

Woods was an inspector of car bodies in the Chevrolet Motors plant here before he paid $2.50 for the ticket that made him almost a millionaire.

35 Candidates Working Out At State College

OREGON STATE COLLEGE, Corvallis, March 28—Baseball practice is in full sway here now with 35 candidates going through daily workouts. Whereas the pitchers and catchers have been warming up for nearly a month, the outfield and infield material made its first appearance this week.

Coach Ralph Coleman has lettermen available for every position except third base, and should have a well fortified team in the field and at the plate. Captain "Buck" Grayson, who has held down first base for the past two years, is rounding into shape for his final season.

Other lettermen returning with Grayson are Russ McKennon, second base; Lee Pennell, shortstop; Buck Hammer, Rod Ballard and Dick Henzel, outfielders; Joe Mack, catcher, and Al Brown, pitcher. Other lettermen were counted on returning this year, but have failed to put in an appearance as yet.

Coleman has a large group of reserve material and rook prospects from last year, and in addition a couple of junior college possobilities. Leading infielders at present among the reserves are King Bailey and Bob Cronin, first basemen; Elmer Emigh, Emmett Huffman and Tom Scales, second base; Johnny Biancone, shortstop or third base; and Hubert Ashby and Leonard Wilson, third base. Karl Jensen, Charles Troyer, Wayne Bauer, "Honolulu" Hughes and Chief Thompson are outfield candidates, while Merritt Nash and Bob Schneider and Elwood Keema, behind the bat, and Herman Leaf, Dick Dunkelberger and Lewis Essman, on the mound complete the leading performers.

Coach Coleman will be assisted in his duties by "Slats" Gill, basketball coach, while George Castner will be student manager this year.

Portland's Only Sea Lion Is Dead

PORTLAND, Mar. 28 (AP)—Portland's only sea lion, a resident of the city park pool for only three days, died yesterday. Pneumonia is suspected as the cause of death.

The sea lion was captured on the beach at Newport and brought here by trailer after the city had a difficult time authorizing an expenditure of $35 for cartage.