

School Budgets Approved

Two Are Elected To School Board

By SUCK BUCHANAN
Observer Staff Writer

A handful of voters yesterday approved the School District No. 1 and Rural District school budgets and elected two members to the school board in La Grande.

Forrest Masters was elected to the School District No. 1 school board with a 188 vote total. John Thomas Jones Jr. received 197 votes and Robert Barnes, 72. The post is for five years.

Mrs. Arlo Noyes, now serving an appointed term, received 328 votes for a one year position. She was unopposed.

A total of 390 votes were cast 315 yes, and 75 No, to approve the School District No. 1 budget. Voters approved a proposed \$174,691 levy on a six per cent limitation to balance a \$1,401,010.38 expected budget.

There were 306 Yes votes cast on the Rural District School budget, and 75 negative votes.

Charles Reynolds and Carl Webster were running neck and neck for the member-at large post on the Rural School District board. All votes are not yet tallied.

Reynolds received 229 and Webster 150 in La Grande, Reynolds 51 and Webster 65 at Union. Imbler gave each 21 and North Powder gave Webster 36 and Reynolds 19.

At Union Royal Wilder received 77 votes and Lyle Witherrite 50 for a chair on the Union school board.

Other voting at Union showed 89 yes and 49 no on the Rural School budget; 79 Yes and 45 No on the Union School budget.

The vote will not be official until the rural school board meets to canvass the vote.

Winnie Casts Spell Over White House

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Sir Winston Churchill cast his spell over the White House today, operating from an imposing four-poster bed in the second-floor residential quarters of President Eisenhower.

Befitting his age of 84 and a long-standing distaste for the earlier hours of the day, the doughty old warrior from Great Britain let it be known that one of his famous habits had not changed—he would not be stirring until early afternoon.

Sir Winston, jabbing the floor with his gold-headed cane and wagging his famous "V" signal, walked flatteringly on the arm of the President into the White House late Monday to begin a sentimental visit with his old comrade in arms of World War II.

There was a quiet dinner Monday night with the President and his wife; their son, John, and his wife, Barbara, and Anthony Montague Brown, Sir Winston's personal secretary.

Then the former prime minister who regarded 3 a.m. as a reasonable bedtime during his World War II White House visits, lumbered down the hall to the Rose Room and retired before midnight.

Eisenhower had a busy day scheduled at the office, but planned to devote the late afternoon and evening to his fabulous visitor whose very presence created an atmosphere of nostalgia and even excitement among members of the staff.

The President planned a relatively small stag dinner for Sir Winston tonight, and a larger stag affair Wednesday night.

BULLETINS

SALEM UPI — The Oregon House today passed and sent to the Senate for confirmation the two major tax bills proposed by the Democratic-controlled 50th Oregon Legislature.

Rep. Clarence Barton D-Coquille carried the major income tax bill on the house floor. Its passage by both Houses is one of the major obstacles to adjournment of the Legislature.

Vote on the main income tax measure was 33-27.

SALEM UPI — The Oregon Senate today passed, 17-12, a bill to abolish the State Board of Control. If now goes to the governor.



SEVEN MILES TO GO

The new geographic center of the 50 United States, located in a wilderness area, was marked in ceremonies along Catherine creek yesterday—seven miles from the real spot. A sign telling of the area was erected on Highway 203, seven miles northeast of the real spot. Looking over the new sign, from left above, John Ferguson, Oregon Centennial Commission "Uncle Sam," from Portland; Miss Sharon Noyes, local Centennial queen and Bernal Hug, representing pioneers of Oregon.

SIGN ERECTED SEVEN MILES FROM U.S. GEOGRAPHIC CENTER

By H. E. PHILBY
Observer Staff Writer

The new geographic center of the 50 United States was almost located yesterday. A sign, seven miles from the actual wilderness spot, was erected to direct travelers.

An Oregon Centennial Commission representative, dressed as "Uncle Sam," along with La Grande, Union and Baker officials and the San Carlos, Calif., men who located the spot on the map, participated in ceremonies beside Catherine creek on Highway 203. The sign is located seven miles northeast from the actual geographic center and 32 miles from La Grande.

William O. Holmes, who started studying astronomy in his youth, told a joint meeting of the Chamber of Commerce and Lions club yesterday noon how he arrived at the center of the United States including Alaska and Hawaii.

He said another man may calculate the center and "vary as much as two inches from my figures," Holmes said. "A third man, not yet born, will again calculate the area and tell us which was wrong," the former Montana resident declared.

Holmes described the spot as determined that the spot was located in Union county, said he used the only methods of measurements acceptable by scientists. He said he used the coordinates of the world. These are mathematical lines used to determine the longitude and latitude of any spot in the world. It is this system of measurement, he said, that "can be communicated to any scientist so that he will know exactly where you have located any given point on earth."

Holmes' brother, Benny, told the group that "while I was running around with the girls in school, Bill was studying astronomy." Both men are graduate engineers. William is president and Benny is vice president of the year-old Research Publications, Inc.

As a youth William Holmes "discovered" that one end of his Helena, Montana home "traveled faster" around the earth than the other end. Through the use of astronomical calculations Holmes set out to determine just how much faster the one end of the house traveled because of its location in relation to the equator.

The brother team said they would be back in La Grande "a number of times" in the near future and indicated a desire to go off the beaten path to the actual center of the United States which is located at an elevation of 6,500 feet, under an estimated 10 feet of snow in a federal forest land.

20 Per Cent Employment Gain Noted In This Area

Increased construction activity in logging, lumber and retail trade resulted in a 20 per cent gain in employment last month, according to Ernest O. Burrows, manager of the state employment office.

Burrows said the recall of workers on lay-off status in construction, logging and lumber mills was the important trend in April's labor market. A moderate number of new hires was noted in retail trade.

Full scale construction has been resumed on Highway 30. The cost of construction now in progress in this area is estimated at \$6,000,000, Burrows reported. Building permits issued by La Grande totaled \$85,989 in April, compared to \$29,842 in March and \$67,825 in April, 1958. New construction in Island City now totals \$20,000.

Federal Board Enters Dispute

TILLAMOOK (UPI) — The Federal Mediation Service has entered a labor dispute at the Tillamook County Creamery Association plant.

A federal mediator talked Monday with members of the Tillamook local of the striking Teamsters Union and a committee from the board of directors of the Association. The employer committee scheduled a meeting today to consider a union proposal.

The strike started last Thursday over wages for 18 fluid milk plant employees. About 150 persons have been idled.

A management spokesman said the plant was operating in all departments. Milk producers who supply the plant have been working there.

OLDEST BELGIAN DIES
BRUSSELS, Belgium (UPI) — Mrs. Mieke Duray, Belgium's oldest citizen, died Monday on her 104th birthday just a few hours before she was to receive an honor visit from the mayor and the city council.

Ike Hopes For Steel Solution

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Eisenhower called today for mobilization of public opinion against any steel industry wage agreement that would be clearly inflationary.

Some reporters construed Eisenhower's news conference remarks as the first hint of federal intervention if the agreement is inflationary. But he was not clear on this point.

The President appealed to management and labor to use good sense, wisdom and economic statesmanship in the current negotiations.

Otherwise, he said, in the long run the U. S. cannot stand idly by and do nothing.

Eisenhower said he deplored the possibility of putting the government at the collective bargaining table. He also said he disapproved of having to resort to mandatory wage-price controls because, once you do that, it will hurt the American system.

Then he added that he wanted to make clear that he and we are concerned about the situation and cannot stand idly by.

The President did not say whether he thought any kind of wage increase would be harmful.

The President said in reply to a news conference question that however deplorable the prospect of Government intervention, the steel negotiations involve the entire American public and the economic well-being of the nation.

He said that the entire country must look to steel management and the United Steelworkers Union for wise conduct of their contract negotiations. Otherwise, in the long run, the government could not stand still and do nothing about any agreement that promised to be clearly inflationary.

Warning to the subject, Eisenhower suggested that all Americans make it clear that they are deeply concerned over the long-range effects of the steel negotiations and will not stand idly by if they are to be damaged.

Wagon Train Heading West

HEBRON, Neb. (UPI)—The Oregon Cavalcade was heading west again today and due to reach a point 1-3 miles east of Oak, Neb., tonight.

The wagon train stopped overnight here Monday after traveling about 25 miles during the day.

A tornado alert was posted during the evening, which didn't add to anyone's comfort.

Gale Carnine, one of the scouts from Roseburg, Ore., was greeted here by his step-sister, Mrs. Wallace Shaverford, Stromsburg, Neb., who traveled 80 miles to meet the train. They have never met before.

The people on the wagon train had dinner in a building on the edge of the city park. The morale of the group was reported very high at the end of the 16th day on the trail.

MARJORIE CANTOR IS FAIR

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Marjorie Cantor, comedian Eddie Cantor's eldest daughter, was reported in fair condition today at Cedars of Lebanon Hospital where she is undergoing treatment for an undisclosed ailment.



SGT. D. J. CASCIATO

Casey Casciato Is Transferred

State Police Sergeant D. J. (Casey) Casciato, head of the area office here for the past nine and one-half years, will be transferred to the West Slope office in Washington county effective June 1.

Casciato will be in charge of the West Slope office, a larger post than the headquarters here. He has been a state police officer for the past 22 years.

The sergeant, a sports fan, has been a booster of local athletics activities during his stay here. He has managed Little League teams for several years and is presently chairman of the Youth Activities committee of Elks Lodge 433.

He has two children, Eddie 11, and Candy 5. He has been living at 1707 Oak Street with his family.

Band Concert Opens Music Week Festival

A demonstration of mass band directing and a novelty band number were two of the highlights of the 1959 May Festival at La Grande High School last night. Students are now working on final rehearsals for Wednesday and Friday night performances.

Band Director Donald Scott showed the magic of a wand by using the long stick to direct four separate bands and an audience of more than 450 in a grand finale number. With the 92-piece high school band on the stage and three junior high school bands seated in the front seats of the auditorium, Scott asked the audience to participate in singing "God of Our Fathers." The four bands totaled 302 musicians, Scott said.

With flashing stage lights and drums working up to a crescendo, the high school band played a novelty composition of "Stormy Weather."

This year's edition of the annual May Festival opened with Queen Marilyn Waite and her court being seated alongside the stage.

A boys' quartet, a girls' trio and a mixed ensemble provided additional musical entertainment last night.

The Wednesday night program will feature a musical style show with a western theme by the high school orchestra. The western theme will be carried on into the final Friday night production, along with some heavier orchestration numbers.

ELMA CUSICK DIES

Elma Cusick, 78, who lived at 802 2nd Street here, died early this morning. Services will be announced later for the lifetime resident of Union county.

50th Legislature In Final Hours; Tax Vote Today

SALEM (UPI) — The 50th Oregon legislature was in its final hours today.

Both House Speaker Robert Duncan (D-Medford) and House Tax Committee Chairman Clarence Barton (D-Coquille) said an effort would be made to end the session tonight.

Major remaining action is the tax program which Democrats approve and to which Republicans are opposed.

The Democrats control both Houses of the Legislature. A house caucus approved the tax plan but Republican members said they would not support a bill which eliminated federal income tax deductions on state income tax returns and also lowered the rates.

The major bill of the program, dealing with income taxes, House bill 670, was to come up for action sometime today in the house and will probably be quickly referred to the Senate for confirmation.

Major objection of the Republicans is that the bill does not broaden the tax base enough.

If the Legislature manages to adjourn tonight it will be the 114th day of the session, short of the 128-day record achieved by the 49th legislative assembly.

The major tax bill would bring in some \$69,200,000 compared with about \$63,400,000 brought in now.

This would support a general fund budget of about 315 million dollars. Latest estimate of the budget for the state from the general fund is about \$33,400,000. This was made by Rep. Keith Skelton (D-Eugene), co-chairman of the Joint Ways and Means Committee.

The proposed plan would lower rates to a low of 2.5 per cent and a high of 7.5 per cent.

The rates which begin for both joint returns and single persons at 2.5 per cent for \$1000 income for the former and \$500 for the latter, continue progressively up to 7.5 per cent on incomes of \$30,000 or over for married persons. In the case of single persons the 7.5 per cent rate is reached at an income in excess of \$15,000.

The joint return rate of those with incomes of from \$1,000 to \$2,000 is three per cent; from \$2,000 to \$4,000, five per cent; \$4,000 to \$10,000, six per cent; \$10,000 to \$30,000, seven per cent; and over \$30,000 7.5 per cent.

Single person's rates of 2.5 per cent for the first \$500 income are \$500 to \$1,000, three per cent; \$1,000 to \$2,000, five per cent; \$2,000 to \$7,500, six per cent; \$7,500 to \$15,000, seven per cent; and over \$15,000 7.5 per cent.

The body was bleached, apparently from the long period of submersion in the 40-yard-wide river.

When Parker was snatched from his cell he was wearing a pair of trousers in addition to his underwear. The trousers were missing when the body was found near the Mississippi shore of the river a little over a half-mile south of this city.

Found Near Bridge
Parker and the lunch mob had been the objects of one of the South's largest manhunts. Neither the 40 FBI agents nor the large Mississippi Highway Patrol staff working day and night on the case had reported any clues.

A bridge which joins Mississippi and Louisiana just above the river where the body was found may have been the dumping spot for the victim. There were no weights attached to the body.

Parker was carried feet first, screaming and shouting, from his normally unguarded third-floor Pearl River County Courthouse jail by the men, who first hit him with their fists. He was tossed into a car and a convoy of four or five vehicles sped him out of the south Mississippi town.

A farmer, passing by the jail, saw the incident but could not identify anyone.

Senate Refuses To Suspend Rules

SALEM (UPI) — An effort by Senate President Walter Pearson (D-Portland) to reduce an appropriation for purchase of land in the Capitol Mall from \$700,000 to \$500,000 was balked when the Senate refused to suspend the rules today to amend it.

Pearson contended that the property below Union street in Salem should be freed and the Mall be restricted to Union street or perhaps Chemechea street.

Contending that it was too late now to change the limits of the Mall, Sen. Eddie Ahrens (R-Turner) urged the Senate to support the ways and means recommendation of \$700,000. It did and the bill now goes to the governor.



QUEEN CROWNED

Jim Epley, president of the La Grande High School student body, crowns Marilyn Waite, Queen of the May Music Festival at the school last night. The festival continues on Wednesday and Friday nights. (LHS Photo)



QUEEN AND COURT

The 1959 May Music Festival Queen, Marilyn Waite, and her court reign over activities held at the school last night. From left are Princesses Joan Diehl, Gayle Jackman, Queen Marilyn Waite, Patty Parker and Sharon Hodgins. They will head festivities throughout the week. (Joe Diehl Photo)