An Old Friend Leaves The Scene

An association that began way back when the News was a little paper, with a page size of five columns by 13 and a half inches, comes to an end, as a regular feature, this week, as an old friend leaves the scene, and the "Scene" leaves us. We refer to the column by Loraine Haines, "Scenes and Sounds of Your Old Hometown."

Mrs. Haines has the distinction of being the first writer employed by the News, with a column called "Factual Fantasia," when the paper started in 1957. She later turned her writing efforts to local corresponding under her present column heading, which she concludes this week.

There is no doubt the column will be missed by her many readers, just as we will miss having it come across our desk each week. And we will like-wise miss the weekly front-office, or back-shop, sessions that contributed greatly to our progress. Her confidence and loyalty were many times the antidote for those periods of depression when it was sometimes questionable if the effort was worth it.

We are pleased that she is not completely deserting us, however. Though "Scenes" will be gone, Mrs. Haines has promised that she will redirect her writing to feature stories about local folks and local places, something we have been wanting to do for a long time. We are sure that our readers will enjoy these articles, (they may even be about you) and will look forward to them—as we will.

REPORT ON LEGISLATURE

Defeated Bills Are Discussed

EDITOR'S NOTE: Here is an authoritative review of what happened at Salem during the Legislative session just concluded—why taxes are being raised, and what could happen if the tax bill just passed is referred to the people and beaten in a special election—in the words of a key figure on the scene: Clarence A. Barton of Coos County, Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 52nd Legislative Assembly.

The following are exerpts from Rep. Barton's talk to the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association at Coos Bay.

By CLARENCE BARTON
Speaker
Oregon House of Representatives

PART VI

Saving the best toward the last, we turn now to Senate Bill 370.

There's no doubt the so-called "three-way bill" prolonged the session, as it also prolonged the 1961 session. The House defeated the measure again and in the long run this will be to the advantage of both employer and employee.

The trouble with SB 370 was this: You never knew what bill you were talking about when the subject came up. It was constantly changed and amended—you could never be sure of what was in the measure at any given point.

The bill at various times covered employers, employees and farmers. Sometimes all were in and sometimes some were out.

It is true that some of SB 370's versions increased benefits to injured workers. The cost of these increased benefits, however, were to be shouldered by the smaller employers.

The 50 largest employers in the state, the so-called direct responsibility employers, write their own insurance, or insure privately. The private insurance companies pick and choose their risks; the state cannot do this; it must take any risk which the private companies won't take, and eventually this would break the state fund and drive smaller employers to the wall trying to pay the state premiums.

Benefits for injured workers are based on their need for money, not wages. A married man with children gets larger benefits. Who will the direct responsibility employers hire in order to get lower rates for insurance? They will employ those whose benefits would be lowest, if we follow the law of averages. Eventually we would build up a class of unemployable family men—unemployable in large direct responsibility jobs. All these would, if they got a job, be the risk of the state. This is bad socially. It is also bad economically from the standpoint of the state's fiscal well-being.

There were good points in Senate Bill 370. But the bad outweighed the good. I presume we'll see the bill again in 1965, or perhaps in a special session this fall if the revenue bill is referred. Maybe this explains some of the agitation for referral of the income tax bill.

I should say that I have never seen more ruthless lobbying than I saw this year on SB 370. I have opposed lobby control bills in the past, because lobbying in Oregon, at least in recent years, has been open, helpful and clean. But I don't know if I can continue to oppose lobby control proposals in the future.

Many of the things the Legislature didn't do were noteworthy.

We didn't pass the liberty amendment, nor the National Legislative Conference's silly Constitutional amendments which would deny the courts jurisdiction in apportionment and set up a "court of the Union" composed of 50 chief justices to overrule the U. S. Supreme Court.

We didn't pass an unconstitutional bill which would have prevented fluoridation of water.

We didn't take the housewives trading stamps away from them.

We didn't tax the churches.

We didn't deny the right to do business on Sunday.

We didn't approve the toothless Columbia Interstate Compact.

More unfortunately, we did not pass on to the people the Revised Constitution. The House rose to its duty by approving the referral. The Senate refused. More will be heard on this issue if we can trust the League of Women Voters to continue their campaign—and I think we can.

What is a legislature for?

This last one started business at 10 a.m. on January 14 and was expected to have a $426 million business operating by 10:30. It took us until June 3, but it was done in good order at a cost of $405 million instead of the Governor's suggested $426 million.

One suspects that this would have been a highly successful legislature in the eyes of many of its political and press critics if the party registration of legislators were revised.

Well, the balance of party membership of the legislators is something our critics had to live with.

And, I predict, they'll continue to live with it in the next Legislative Assembly too.

(The End)

FAREWELL PARTY
GIVEN FOR DEARBORNS

A farewell party was given for the Louie Dearborn family last Friday night by their friends and neighbors.

Presented to them was a pole lamp and a unique driftwood wall plaque made by the Delamarter and Peterson families.

The Dearborns are now living in Pendleton.

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New Milk Prices, Market Areas Established, Effective Today

With the exception of Harney, Malheur and Curry counties, milk producers throughout Oregon will receive $5.30 per hundred for class 1 milk containing 3.5% butterfat. Butterfat differential will be 7.3 cents per point.

The same producers will get $2.90 for 3.5% milk, with a 6 cents differential for their class 2 milk.

This announcement was made by K. W. Sawyer, state department of agriculture milk stabilization chief, upon the filing of four orders as a result of June hearings.

The department established Curry county as a second market area and Malheur and Harney counties as the third market area. All the other 33 counties are in Market Area No. 1.

The prices and market areas are all effective today, Aug. 1.

The $5.30 class 1 figure established in area No.1 is equivalent to $5.66½ on the basis of 4% milk which has heretofore been the pricing bench mark.

Curry County $5.40

In Curry county, Sawyer established the class 1 price at $5.40 for 3.5% milk, with a 7.3 cents butterfat point differential. The class 2 price there is $2.90 for 3.5% milk with a 6 cent differential. These figures are equivalent to $5.76½ and $3.20 for class 1 and 2, respectively, on a 4% basis.

The Malheur-Harney class 1 price will be $5.20 for 4% milk, with 8.5 cents per butterfat point differential and $3.38 for class 2 on 4% basis and 7.1 cents per point differential.

All prices are f.o.b. the milk handlers' plants, which means producers will pay the hauling charges.

Only grade A milk is involved in the pricing which results from the permanent milk stabilization law enacted by the 1963 legislature. Class 1 milk is that part of grade A used in bottle and can trade—or doorstep and retail milk as far as the consumer is concerned.

Class 2 milk is the surplus of grade A which goes into manufactured products such as cheese and ice cream.

Price and market area hearings were concluded June 29. Sawyer said he based prices in two of the market areas on the 3.5 percent milk after producers urged this change. This basis is in line with market order pricing throughout most of the country and more nearly in line with present retail fat basis on Oregon retail markets.

Producer Level Only

The new milk act deals with prices only on the producer level. Wholesale and retail prices do not come under the act, nor did they under the temporary law which expired at the end of last year. The class 2 pricing is a new feature.

Sawyer said the price in Malheur-Harney area and in Curry county follow prices prevailing in adjoining Idaho and California, respectively.

The placement of Malheur and Harney counties in a market area by themselves is a departure from proposals made at the hearing in eastern Oregon. Producers along the eastern edge of the state asked to be placed in different market areas, as Baker and Union county dairymen considered their market higher than in Malheur, where most of the milk goes into Idaho.

In reaching his conclusions on the major market area, Sawyer pointed out that in the last 10 years class 1 prices to producers have declined from $6.20 to $5.50, or 11.3% while production costs have increased about 20%. The $5.50 price (or 4% basis) has been in effect since the free-market break on June 1 when two major dealers dropped the price from $5.86.

In the same 10 years, the retail value of milk, based on home delivery prices per quart, has increased from $10.12 to $12.42 above cost of raw product, Sawyer found. But he added competition of recent years has eroded the handler margin.

He further said: "Because milk moves rapidly over long distance today . . . the use of pricing authority must be exercised with caution and with full awareness that a price out of line with prices in adjoining states . . . can in itself be a disruptive factor . . .".

In his study of dealers' testimony that they could bring out-of-state milk into Oregon cheaper than they could buy it at prices Oregon producers proposed at the hearings, Sawyer drew this conclusion:

"Aside from the Puget Sound and Boise Valley areas there is no evidence to indicate that a handler requiring any substantial volume could immediately secure a dependable full supply.

"By applying the average cost-of-haul reported in the 1960-61 Economic Research Service study, 3.5 percent milk from the Puget Sound area would cost Portland handlers approximately $5.38 per hundred."

On the same basis Boise Valley milk could come into Portland for about $5.30 per hundred.

Milk supplies from either place would mean Oregon dealers would be buying both class 1 and class 2 milk at between $5.30 and $5.40 because "it is not probable that any Oregon producer would sell grade A milk for class 2 price unless he also supplied the class 1 requirements," Sawyer concluded.

Elk Creek Timber Sold

The Elk Creek Blowdown timber sale of 23 acres on the Powers ranger district, Siskiyou National Forest, was sold on July 23.

The following companies participated in the bidding for this sale:

Jerald Humbert Logging, North Bend (the high bidder); Gibney & Wagner, Port Orford; Albert J. Firchau, Coos Bay; Brownie Coldiron Logging Company, Gold Beach; E. O. Post Logging, Powers; B.P.S. Logging Company, Myrtle Point; Coos Head Timber Company, Coos Bay.

The estimated volumes, appraised prices and bids prices are as follows: Douglas fir 720 M board feet, appraised at $24.25, bid price $24.25; western hemlock and other species, 80 M board feet, appraised and bid price, $11.30; Port-Orford cedar, 400 M board feet, appraised $69.95, bid $167.00. The total appraised value was $46,344.00; total bid value $85,164.00.

Oregon Farm Bureau Opposes Referral Of Tax Program

Harold Beach, president of the Oregon Farm Bureau, said today in Salem, the OFBF board of directors had unanimously adopted a resolution opposing referral of the income tax measure passed by the 1963 Oregon Legislature.

Beach said the opposition to a referral did not mean the Farm Bureau was satisfied with the tax plan, but it was their conclusion little would be accomplished by a referral.

"A special session would be extremely expensive and since the lawmakers had 141 days to draw up a tax bill, it is doubtful they could do any better in a special session," Beach stated.

He also the board of directors expressed disappointment over the lack of attention given to property tax relief by the Legislature. The mounting burden of the property tax is one of the most serious problems confronting agriculture in the state, according to the Farm Bureau president.

The board of directors also took action on the creation of a special committee to carefully examine the possibility of initiating a sales tax measure to offset property taxes.

PUC Tough On Truckers

Salem — Public Utility Commissioner Jonel C. Hill Wednesday named a Umatilla county man as the third person caught in his crackdown on truckers who pose as farmers to side-step fees that regular for-hire and private motor carriers must pay.

Hill's latest complaint charges Harold Wilkins of Hermiston with 42 counts of operating his truck commercially while licensed as a farm vehicle. Hill has ordered Wilkins to pay $4,200 in penalties.

PUC investigators report that Wilkins has been using his truck-trailer combination to haul baled hay from the Louis LeTrace farm at Echo to the Pendleton Grain Growers Feedville terminal.

Two other Umatilla county truckers last week were assessed a total of $3,300 in penalties by Hill for similar violations.

In another separate action Hill levied a $1,600 assessment against Garland D. Philips owner of Northwest Plywoods in Portland.

Philips, according to PUC charges, was illegally operating as a common carrier of lumber, particle board or plywood.

Philips admitted the charges and waived hearing.