Port Orford News

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FROM the SCRATCH PAD

The phriendly pharmacist suffered another break-in at his Port Orford Drug ... the 11th in the past 17 years ... which has gotta be some kind of a record. It was at least a little bad luck. But there was also some good luck connected with the break-in. He still had the piece of plywood left from the last burglary to board up the hole in his front door from the Thursday night burglary.

-P-

Ken Nelson, music director for all the schools here-abouts, stopped by early Monday morning to tell me about the big 4th annual Pacific High Pops Concert coming up next Thursday night at the high school gym. The popular Pops event will be at 7:30 p.m., and will feature the Pacific band with Dr. Wilbur Jensen and Sandy Kenny sitting in on trumpet and sax, and the vocal ensemble. And it's all FREE! (Wonder what Ken was doing up so early the first day of spring vacation?)

-P-

The Bureau of sport fisheries and wildlife recently released expenditure figures from a national survey of hunting and fishing. The survey is made by the bureau every five years and shows what nimrods contribute to the economy and the conservation of wildlife and its habitat.

The figures are computed from 1970 when more than 33 million anglers spent nearly five billion dollars -- a 68½ percent increase over 1965.

Those 33 million anglers made around 576 million fishing trips!

Fishing and hunting expenditures combined represent an impressive factor in the nation's economy, at a whopping total of $7.1 billion. And these outdoorsmen spent this sum just for the privilege of drowning a few worms and to burn some gunpowder.

With this kind of financial participation, it tends to make spectator sports look like two-bits waiting for change.

-P-

Curry county came up with a tie when Oregon Rural Landowners Association members voted on a delegate to attend the state convention. Paul Smith of Langlois and Byron Brimm of Brookings each received an equal number of votes and will face a tie-breaker election. County ORLA members also voted 90 percent in favor of establishing a county chapter, according to Kneeland King of Cape Blanco Road.

-P-

Anyone interested in photos taken at the Klamath Falls basketball tourney? I have the proof sheets available at the office. You can get prints at $1 for 5x7's and $2 for 8x10's. Stop in any time and make your selections.

-P-

There are still a limited number of copies of the special Region II Class A basketball tourney ... at only 10 cents the copy. That's the special section that was made possible by local merchants and firms. Pick 'em up at the News office.

-P-

Next Thursday night's subject at the Curry History class being given by Louis Knapp will be on the Port Orford Meteorite. Should be an interesting topic ... and an appropriate one to preceed the Sat. night meeting of the Port Orford Meteorite Association (POMA), to be held at the Port & Starboard Pizza Parlor.

-P-

Hey George ... any idea of the impact tourism plays on the Curry county economy?

According to a recent report issued by the Travel Advisory Committee of the State Highway Commission, the figure is $11,325,504 for the year 1969. That total includes $4,278,348 spent by out-of-state tourists who were in Oregon more than one day; $183,774 by out-of-state non-tourist visitors-business and other; in state inter county expenditures of $5,882,967; and $980,415 in in state intra county expenditures.

Salem Scene

by Jack Zimmerman

Senior Citizen Benefits Rank High With Salons

Despite well-publicized efforts by both parties to attract the youth vote, it would appear a lot of smart political money is being wagered on Oregon's elderly.

Election officials readily admit older people perform more regularly at the polls than do the newly enfranchised. Consequently, this attention to elderly often is exaggerated during election seasons as candidates scrabble to make certain older constituents are registered and provided transportation to and from polling places.

And in spite of attention-getting legislative issues -- such as reduction of the voting age, the age at which a young person can qualify to become a candidate for certain offices and enjoy the dubious fruits of full majority -- special treatment for the elderly probably receives a higher legislative priority.

The 57th session of the Assembly is a case in point. A Special Joint Committee on Aging has been appointed and so far has been concerned primarily with human resource-type bills designed to watchdog facilities for the care of old people.

But the committee also is considering Engrossed HJR 18 which would recommend the State Highway Commission consider granting reduced price privileges in State Parks for persons 62 years old and older.

That measure passed the House by a resounding 48-5 vote, while a similar measure, HB 2207 -- which would have provided much the same privileges by law to those 65 and older -- was rereferred to the House Transportation Committee.

Another bill, SB 147, deals more clearly with the political practicality of facilitating the voting process for older people. It would permit registrars to canvass precincts to obtain registrations.

Where the dividing line is 62 or 65, this attention to senior citizens does not escape the more seasoned Salem watcher and at least one has chosen to comment. He is George J. Annala, manager of Oregon Tax Research, a statewide non-partisan taxpayer association.

Writing in "Your Taxes," his "green letter," Annala speculates on circumstances that would prevail if a certain stack of bills facing the current session became law. For this purpose, he selected a 65-year-old with retirement income of $6,000 yearly, half of which is Social Security, living in a $15,000 Portland home which he owns.

Under the McCall Plan for school finance, Annala's hypothetical senior citizen would have 1973-74 property taxes estimated at $266.70. He would barely miss added tax relief, but owe no income tax. Then, by plugging in HB 2639, exempting $3,000 income, his tax would be cut to $105, entitling him to a refund of $161.70. Annala follows that with HB 2118, which would exclude Social Security, Railroad and any other pensions exempt from income taxes.

"He might get the whole $266.70 refunded," the OTR manager concluded.

Futher, if he were a war veteran and died, his widow is eligible for a $7,000 exemption, reducing her tax to $133.35 at most. Should she marry another veteran, the full value of the home is again taxable, barring disability exemption. But, points out Annala, HB 2082 would restore her exemption if she outlives him.

He goes on to mention other amenities for old folks, including free hunting and fishing licenses to five-year residents 70 years old and older, $1 licenses for 50-year residents at age 65 and the possibility of reduced rates for State Park patrons. He also throws in SB 216, which would provide a $1,000 income tax deduction for home improvements and HB 2490 which would permit a $5,000 home improvement with no increase in value.

The tax specialist then comments on an Oregon statute on the books since 1963 that "... contradicts letters to editors, speeches by the uninformed and allegations that 'elderly families are being forced out of their homes by the relentless increase in property taxes'."

He refers to eligibility of any homeowner 65 or older, regardless of income, for outright deferral of property taxes as long as he or she lives. The deferral continues if the surviving spouse is within six months of reaching age 60. Deferred taxes can be reduced further if the applicant is eligible and applies for property tax relief.

Annala reports only 283 Oregon residents presently are taking advantage of the deferral and greater use likely is limited by a desire to leave unemcumbered estates to heirs.

Of course there are other reasons older citizens might not be taking advantage of existing benefits bestowed by the Legislature. One could be lack of information.

And there's a bill before the present Legislature designed to solve that problem, too. It is SB 523, which would require the Secretary of State to prepare and mail a Senior Citizen's Newsletter to registered voters 62 and older and gives him the option of using appropriate means to communicate with all elders registered or not.

The Newsletter would make certain widespread communication of information about Annala of information about what Annala calls "goodies" for the elderly -- including the possibility those 65 and older living in mass transit districts may be able to ride buses for a dime during certain weekday hours and free on weekends.

Lest there's an immediate stampede for the bus stop, potential new/old riders probably should await passage of SB 644.

LETTERS to the Editor

TO THE EDITOR:

The vocational Rehabilitation Division on Aug. 3, 1972, discontinued it's secretarial and answering service in Gold Beach and had it moved to the State Office Building in Coos Bay.

Vocational Rehabilitation Division, 455 Elrod, P. O. Box 1113, Coos Bay, Oregon 97420, phone: 269-5836.

As for VRD services for the county, my, "rule of thumb," schedule for the week is as follows-- Monday: State Office Building, Gold Beach; Tuesday: Brookings City Hall; Wednesday and Thursday: Coos Bay VRD Office; Friday: Port Orford and Bandon City Halls. Messages may be left at the Children's Services Office in Gold Beach, Brookings City, Port Orford City Hall, or mailed to P.O. Box 547, Gold Beach or contact the Coos Bay Office identified above.

DONALD E. ANDREWS
Rehabilitation Counselor
P. O. Box 547
Gold Beach, Or 97444

TO THE EDITOR:

Was reading your article about "tourists," the one you swiped from Western World of Bandon. We found it extremely funny and quite true. A little humor goes a long way.

We lived in Port Orford for two years and found the town and its people very friendly and nice. Moved back East to be nearer our families.

Thank you for the nice article. We read the Port Orford News every week.

Sincerely,
John and Joan Domeeka
Princess Anne, Md.

Capitol Comment

By GOVERNOR TOM McCALL

Column Extremely Misleading

A column offered for publication during the week of March 12 by a spokesman for Associated Oregon Industries (AOI) asserts that economic growth would be discouraged by the proposal I have made for reform of the school finance structure.

The column, by an AOI lobbyist, Jack Zimmerman, is in many respects misleading in the extreme.

The obvious effort of AOI has been to prohibit the people from voting on a tax reform proposal that would give middle-income taxpayers significant tax relief.

What is not mentioned by the AOI column is that my program provides for a net tax decrease for individuals and business, taken collectively. Present revenue sources are tapped to supply part of the money we would provide for the support of elementary and secondary school operating costs. All of the state's receipts from federal revenue sharing also would be dedicated to the school finance program.

No general tax increase is proposed. No shift in the burden of taxation from individuals to business, or from business to individuals, is proposed.

What also is not mentioned in the column produced by AOI is that in every legislative session in my memory there has been a shift of taxes from business and industry onto homeowners and renters. Every exemption provided for business has resulted in an added burden for homeowners and renters. Bills currently are making their way through the Legislature that would add to this burden.

I have proposed that we call a halt to this shifting of the tax load. My proposal would leave individuals and business with the same percentage share of the tax burden. There will be shifts within these groups because we are asking that school finance be based on the principle of ability to pay.

Most wage earners receiving less than $16,000 a year will benefit from this proposal. Family farms will benefit. Retail merchants stand to benefit through elimination of the inventory tax.

Oregon's economy is strong, and is expanding at a rate much faster than the nation as a whole. When we are calling on business and industry to provide no greater share of school taxes than they already pay, I can't believe that our economic health will be undermined.

Both individuals and business will have fair treatment under the tax reform proposal I have made. The tax burden is more fairly distributed when we base school finance on the ability to pay. Industry should be pleased with a system where the tax is based on profits, not losses.

It is true that some individuals and some business will pay more than they are now. If the giant corporations are resisting, I can only come to the conclusion that they want to avoid a school finance system based on ability to pay.

The AOI column contends that my program "would give Oregon the highest personal income taxes and as high or higher business taxes than any state in the Union." The statement is not supported by any accompanying facts.

One fact that can be made, however, is this: According to the U. S. Census Bureau, the per capita state and local government tax in Oregon as of June 30, 1972, was $416 -- less than the state-local tax burden in 28 other states. In the West, only Idaho and Utah have a lower per capita tax.

My tax reform proposal doesn't change this, since we're not increasing state taxes but only providing for a different distribution of the burden.

The column said that under my plan "profitability is penalized." It is absolute nonsense to say that profitability is "penalized." Profit -- net income -- is the revenue source most able to stand taxation. Carried to the extreme, the AOI position would appear to be that it would make more sense to tax those who don't make a profit.

This column goes on to say that my finance proposal would make Oregon "a state where profit is a dirty word." There is nothing in my record to support such an unprincipled statement.

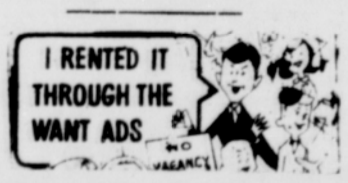
The statement does emphasize, however, that this heavily-financed pressure group will go to great lengths to mislead Oregonians. It is unfortunate that the AOI would use its influence in such an underhanded way. Oregon has been able to resolve political issues in the past in an above-board manner, and that continues to be the position of this Administration, even if not of a few other groups.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The column to which the Governor refers is "Salem Scene" which appeared in the Port Orford News March 15.

OBITUARIES ...

Kata Newcomb

Kata Newcomb, born in Austria in 1929, passed away Mar. 5, at Milwaukie, Ore. She is survived by her husband Lloyd, and children, Don of Port Orford, Donna of Los Angeles, Francis of Wash., D.C., Cindy Robertson, Oklahoma; Earl and Rose of Portland, Frankie, U.S. Army, Joe of Portland, and Ruthie and Laurie, still at home. She is also survived by eight grandchildren, four brothers and three sisters. Funeral services were held in Portland on March 12.



dellenback Report

BY REPRESENTATIVE JOHN DELLENBACK

OLDER AMERICANS ACT PASSES HOUSE

While the federal government's involvement with giving financial assistance to Americans of aging through such programs as Social Security, Veterans' pensions, Medicare and Medicaid, and the like is very considerable, there is a rapidly growing number of Americans 60 years of age and over who would be greatly benefitted by, and are often in absolute need of special services.

From the 1970 census we learn that in the then defined Fourth District of Oregon we had more than 69,000 of our citizens who were over 60 years of age. This varied from a low of 12 percent of the population in Lane County to a high of 22 percent in Josephine County, with the District-wide average being about 14 percent. The state average, incidently, was about 15.4 percent of the total population.

In mid-March the House of Representatives approved a measure to authorize the spending of $1.4 billion over a three-year period to aid older Americans in a series of ways.

As provided in the legislation passed by the House, the Older Americans Act has a number of important goals. Among the most significant are those to strengthen both the federal Administration on Aging and the various state agencies on aging in order to better plan and deliver needed services for the elderly.

Other significant goals are to provide authority to lease, renovate and construct multi-purpose senior centers; to expand the National Older Americans Volunteer program (including Foster Grandparents and the Retired Senior Volunteer Programs); to improve the nutrition program for the elderly; and to create a new program to provide for the employment of individuals 55 and over in community service activities.

There is some question whether the measure will ever become law. President Nixon vetoed a similar bill last year and, although the dollar figures authorized in the bill have been cut back significantly, he may veto the new version of the legislation if and when it also passes the Senate.

If the President does veto the bill, the question immediately reverts to Congress. If both the House and the Senate were to pass the measure again after a veto with two-thirds majorities (and the bill did receive more than a two-thirds vote when it passed the House), the bill would become law over the President's objections.

President Nixon's complaints about last year's legislation were (1) that it was too expensive, and (2) that it created a duplication of services offered under other existing programs.

Effort was made in committee to meet the President's objections. Modifications of the Older Americans Act this year sliced over $600 million in authorizations from the bill and eliminated one of the categorical manpower programs to which the President objected. The bill retains a provision to employ the elderly in community service projects which is opposed by the President.

I'm convinced that the elderly in America are a segment of our society in need of the type help provided for in this bill, and I earnestly hope that both the Senate and the President will agree with us on ours.