

**BROOKINGS-HARBOR PILOT**  
AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Entered as second-class matter, at the postoffice at Brookings, Oregon, March 7, 1946, under the Act of March 3, 1879

**MINNA AKERS, Owner and Publisher**

**WILLIAM G. PHELPS, EDITOR**

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:**  
One Year in advance (in Curry County) .....\$3.00  
One Year, in advance (outside Curry County) .....\$3.50  
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**WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS REPRESENTATIVES, INC.**  
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**The Problem of Highway Access**

**T**HE MEETING called last week at Gold Beach by the Curry County Live Stock Association on access provisions for Highway 101 proved once again that there are no easy answers to the problems concerning the highway.

Present at the hearing were members of the State Legislature's interim Highway Committee . . . there to hear how access provisions of the highway would affect this county.

They heard quite a bit. There were the same old arguments by the same old people for indiscriminate access along the length of the county-access provisions which would destroy the one timeless, priceless asset this county has: Its scenery.

But they heard some pretty logical arguments, too; and out of them may yet come ideas which will help the economic growth of this county as well as preserve its beauty.

Among them were two plans, both voiced by southern Curry County residents. One of them proposed that the state maintain ownership of the scenic strip along the coast, but that it lease spots along it for homes and for commercial development. By maintaining state ownership, there would be a constant safeguard against eyesores, and against the overcommercialism of the area.

The second plan, voiced publicly at the meeting, would call for the highway department to obtain its right of way and make its road location before considering the problems of access. After the location was definitely decided upon, the problem of access for individual properties could be taken up. Such a scheme would necessitate a zoning law of some type, to insure that the permitted development would be controllable.

Both of these schemes present administrative and legislative problems. Legislation would almost certainly be needed to carry them out, and the problems of choosing areas to be developed would undoubtedly be as touchy as the access problem is now.

But they seem to us to be the only alternatives to complete destruction of our scenic assets on the one hand, and the elimination of commercial and residential development on the other.

We are completely, irrevocably, unalterably opposed to unregulated access along the highway; because of what it will do to the safety of the highway, and because of what it will do to our scenic beauty. We cannot permit Curry county to follow the northern part of the coast into a slum area.

And we are as certain as ever that we do need a throughway. More than ever, we realize that our economy soon will be based almost entirely upon the tourist, and we must keep a highway he will travel, and a scenery he will come to see.

But we realize, also, that we need as much economic development as we can get . . . and we realize more than we once did how badly this county needs some economic development. If it can be worked out by the Legislative Committee, so that we can have development AND scenery, we'll be happy.

**A Tax Reappraisal Is Needed**

**H**ARRY J. LOGGAN, Chief Appraisal Engineer for the State Tax Commission, recently spoke to the Brookings-Harbor Chamber of Commerce on the subject of property taxes.

Some of the things that Mr. Loggan told us are of extreme importance to every resident of Curry county.

The financial structure of Curry County is based, as is that of every county, on the property tax. Through it the property owners of the county contribute their share of the tax levy.

But great inequalities have grown up through the years in the amount which each person pays. As Mr. Loggan told us, few counties have escaped these irregularities, and they are present also in Curry County.

There are a number of reasons for the inequalities. One of the greatest reasons is the difficulty in reaching a formula by which all property will be fairly judged.

The legal formula now in use specifies that the tax base shall be a certain percentage of market value under "normal conditions" . . . but no one is quite sure what normal conditions are.

There are other difficulties, too. Our assessors lack trained personnel to assist them in making their appraisals, and they lack the money and time to keep up with changing conditions in making appraisals. Thus we have the spectacle of property which sells for thousands of dollars being appraised at a few hundred dollars . . . just because the assessor has not kept up with changing market conditions. At the same time, newly constructed

buildings will be appraised at their new value, and will pay a disproportionate amount of tax.

The remedy is simply. A reappraisal of the county will give us more realistic values on which to base our taxes. And the adoption of a more realistic tax base should help keep them in line for the future. At the present time, the Tax Commission is leaning toward a formula which would use current market value as the appraisal base.

We can clean up our tax rolls . . . but only if we really want to. In the past, people have resisted a reappraisal, fearing it would raise our taxes. That is not true. We will only reapportion the taxes so that each property pays its true portion of the tax . . . and no one can disagree with that.

**LETTER FROM WASHINGTON**

By

HARRIS ELLSWORTH, M.C.

**I**N THESE WEEKLY letters I make an effort to deal frankly and fully with controversial issues which are before Congress. In doing this, I not only hope to give some useful information on such subjects but in addition present my own views on them. My notion of representative government is that the people at home are entitled to know what their Representative in Washington is thinking about the important issues of the day.

Although many subjects are now being dealt with here, it seems to me that the most important one and the most fundamental issue is that which is embodied in the so-called Bricker Amendment to the Constitution. It is a difficult subject to discuss in a letter like this because it is both technical and legalistic. However, I shall do the best I can to discuss it in an understandable way.

The debate on the Bricker Amendment serves the purpose of revealing very clearly what has happened to our constitutional government during the last 20 years. Some of us have said, down through the years, that interpretation, legislation, executive agreements and court decisions were shooting so many holes in our Constitution as to endanger our sovereignty and possibly the very freedom of our people.

The activities referred to came one at a time. Usually the actual matters involved were so minor as to attract little attention. Now, however, the accumulation of these little rips and tears in our Constitution has attracted attention to the fact that its whole structure is seriously weakened. The constitutional amendment proposed by Senator Bricker and 63 other senators last year represents an effort both to stop further destruction and to patch some of the holes.

For instance, the famous Missouri vs. Holland case referred to so often in this debate was a valid case in the 1920s. The state won its case based upon the premise that the Congress could not tell the citizens of Missouri whether or not they could shoot migratory birds. Thereupon a treaty was entered into with Canada. It became the "supreme law of the land" which state laws could not touch. Missourians then had to abide by the migratory bird law because it was a treaty and "supreme."

Since then, the commerce clause of the Constitution has been so broadened by congressional action and upheld by the courts that virtually every activity is considered to be in interstate commerce, and so subject to federal law. I believe it is conceded that were a case identical to the Missouri vs. Holland case to arise now, the decision would be exactly opposite—under the commerce clause as it is now so broadly interpreted.

Formerly executive agreements made by a President were deemed to be in force only during his tenure of office. They have lately

been ruled to be binding indefinitely.

Formerly an executive agreement or contract made with another government was considered subject to congressional control. Supreme court decisions have given such agreements the same status and effect as treaties—in other words, they also are the supreme law of the land and un-touchable by Congress.

It is pretty certain also that some fine sounding provisions in the United Nations Charter—which is a duly ratified treaty—could be interpreted and implemented so as to have serious and far reaching effect as law within our country. Minority opinions rendered in the steel plant seizure case was warning enough on that point.

I am very certain that Congress and the states MUST act to put language in our Constitution which will put a stop to its disintegration.

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**Gold Beach Lodge Installs Officers**

Officers of the Gold Beach Rebekah lodge, No. 249, were installed January 29 by the district deputy president, Ellen Gardener, and her staff.

Installed were: Noble grand, Alma Sorber; vice grand, Jane Day; recording secretary, Adel Corbin; financial secretary, Ellen Gardener; treasurer, Gladys Forsyth; right support noble grand, Hattie Hogue; left support noble grand, Bess Richardson; warden, Joyce Walker; conductor, Ada Johnston; color bearer, Joyce Cronevuet; chaplain, Inez Colvin; inside guardian, Rea McLennon; outside guardian, Irene Wallen; Musician, Vesper Bailor; right support vice grand, Reta Ganong; left support vice grand, Oleta Jarrett.

Past Noble Grand Lorraine Johnson was presented with a past grand jewel from the lodge members and a corsage of red rosebuds from her officers.

The incoming noble grand, Alma Sorber, was greeted by the lodge with a bouquet of red carnations, as was the installing officer, Ellen Gardener.

**NOTICE**

Having heard many times that my apartment house has been condemned, I wish to make public that the Law of Gold Beach has informed me that it never was, and if it should be, I will be the first to be informed—not the public.

MRS. ELIZABETH SHINGLER

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HATS OFF TO THE BULB GROWERS

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