

BROOKINGS-HARBOR PILOT
AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

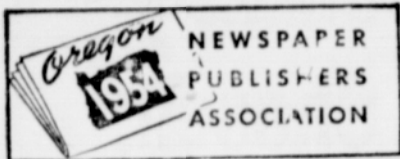
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THE COUNTY ASSESSMENT BILL

On the ballot in the May primary will appear a measure which, if passed, will give authority to the County Court to have Curry County reassessed.

The measure provides for a serial bond levy to provide the county's share of the necessary funds, which are shared jointly by state and county.

Once before the citizens of this county had an opportunity to vote on such a measure, and they defeated it. They did so, we are convinced, because they did not understand its purpose, and feared that a reassessment meant an automatic raise in taxes.

That is not true. What this reassessment is intended to do is to bring present assessments into line with present property values. Many properties have grown in value in the last few years, while other properties have stood still or declined in value. Without reassessment, some properties are paying far more than their share of taxes, and others are paying far less.

Brookings had an opportunity to observe this fact a few years ago, when the county Assessor asked the state to make a spot reassessment here . . . and plenty of people here, we are told, were apprehensive about increased taxes. They found out that some of them had their taxes increased; some were decreased, but the total tax for the area remained the same.

It simply makes common sense, that property should be taxed according to its worth in relation to other properties. And, in fast-growing Curry County, values assessed a few years ago simply do not have validity today. This country changes too rapidly.

No one wants to pay more than his share of taxes, and no one should want to pay less. This reassessment should help to make it possible for everyone to pay his just share.

County officials who administer our property taxes, as well as state officials, are unanimous in their belief that this assessment is needed to correct injustices in our tax load. It deserves to pass.

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LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

HARRIS ELLSWORTH, M. C.

The House is in recess over the Easter week-end and until Monday the 26th of April. Meanwhile the Senate will continue working since it is now somewhat behind the House in handling the bills which must be completed this session. The difference between the House and Senate time-tables is accounted for by the fact that most of the major legislation of this session thus far has had to do with either taxes or appropriations. Such legislation originates in the House and is first acted upon there. Then it is sent over to the Senate. Another thing which makes it easier for the House to complete action on legislation is the fact that all debate time in the House is controlled, whereas the debate in the Senate is generally unlimited. This difference in procedure is due to the fact that the membership of the House is so large, 435 members, as to make unlimited debate impractical.

The House has completed its action upon all of the major appropriations bills except the one for the Department of Defense. That bill I understand, will come to the floor immediately following the Easter recess. The completion of its heavy schedule of bills by the first of May will constitute something of a record for speed on the part of the House Appropriations Committee.

Many Eugene people will remember Don Zimmerman whose home was on 11th Street out near the University. He attended the Eugene public schools and the University of Oregon. He was appointed to the Military Academy at West Point and has enjoyed a distinguished military career, most of which has been as an officer in the Air Force. I have known Don since college days, although he entered the University some time after I did.

The other day Brigadier General Donald Zimmerman walked into my office and we had a good visit. I had not seen him in a long time—and shortly discovered the reason why. He has been stationed in Japan for four years.

I mention him and his visit now because in last week's letter I gave some information regarding the new Air Force Academy which will begin operating next summer. Former Eugene resident and University of Oregon student, General Don Zimmerman will be Dean of the Faculty of the new "West Point of the Air."

There is quite a little talk about state primary elections these days. In the next six weeks or so there will be primaries in: New Jersey April 20th; Alabama, Florida, Indiana, New Mexico, and Ohio May 4th; Pennsylvania May 18th; Oregon May 21st; North Carolina May 29th; Nevada and South Dakota June 1st; Iowa June 7th; and California and South Carolina June 8th. Others will follow throughout the summer, ending with Rhode Island primary September 29th. Maine holds its general election September 13th. All other general elections will be on November 2d.

The Ways and Means Committee of the House has been holding hearings for the last several weeks on the Administration-sponsored bill to amend the Social Security Act so as to increase benefits, and to bring ten million additional Americans—mostly farmers and professional people—under Social Security. The bill is not expected to reach the Floor of the House for consideration until late in May or early June.



FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

By CLIFFORD P. ROWE

My attention was drawn recently to a heart-warming picture, prominently displayed on the front page of a metropolitan daily, of two happy men, one young and one middle-aged. The caption read "Happy to have you back George!" Both were smiling so even the uninformed could readily recognize that here was a joyous occasion.

One's natural guess would have been that here was a young hero recently returned from the wars who was being given public acclaim or perhaps a young man who had made some major contribution to civic enterprise and was being honored for his accomplishment.

What an incentive, I thought, this would give young readers to see thus rewarded a young man's endeavor. Such inspiration could well start hosts of other youngsters toward similar worthy undertakings.

But, alas, such dreams and aspirations would have been dealt a deadly blow by the reading of the information below the picture. For the young man was a criminal, apprehended for robbery, who had since twice escaped from the custody of the

law. For these deeds he had been given precious space on the front page along with a story that described in detail his exciting career since escaping, including new robberies. The picture, then, was that of a conceited crook back again in the custody of a rightfully happy sheriff from whose jail he had first escaped.

I shuddered when I thought of the influence this glamorized picture and story could have on our youth. Where was the lesson of "crime does not pay" which we have preached for so many years?

On an inside page of the same paper, but without a picture was another story about two young bio-chemists announcing a possible cure for diabetes. For those who look to the press for the proper balance of values in life, the moral was there for even the most ignorant to read.

RETURN TO AREA

The many friends of George and Marge Cummins will be glad to know they're nearby, if not in Brookings. The Cummins' are now living near Crescent City.

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