

RIGHT-OF-WAY IS HELD NOT NEEDED

Pacific Highway Widening Possible Without it; No Fund Available

Both Marion and Clackamas counties are having difficulty in solving the problem of the where-withal to buy right of way for widening the Pacific highway between Salem and New Era. It has been brought out in the last week. Neither county has made any provision in the 1932 budget for raising funds for right of way purposes, and there is no existing fund from which the money can be diverted.

Widening of the Pacific highway between Salem and New Era originally was advocated more than a year ago. At that time it was proposed that the pavement should be 30 feet wide, to provide three lanes of traffic, and that the right of way would not exceed 70 feet. This apparently was agreeable to the members of the old state highway commission, and it was generally presumed that such a project eventually would be adopted.

Then followed changes in the personnel of the state highway commission, and injection into the project of various new angles not included in the original proposal. One of these proposals recommended a 20 foot pavement, which would not permit three lanes of traffic, and would be wholly inadequate to handle the traffic that part of the highway to be widened. This was opposed vigorously by the several Willamette valley communities.

All Communities Support Widening

When it became apparent that the widening operation might be jeopardized by new proposals and theories, a series of meetings was held in Salem, with representatives of virtually all the communities along the highway in attendance. At the last of these meetings it was decided definitely that nothing less than a 30 foot pavement would be acceptable. This information later was sent to the state highway commission in the form of resolutions.

At a more recent meeting of the state highway commission held in Portland the pavement proposal was accepted as a basis for the widening operations with the provision that the right of way should be 100 feet in width. Further provision was made that this right of way should be provided by the counties before operations would get under way. The width of the present right of way between Salem and New Era is 60 feet.

Marion county officials declared that there is no valid reason why the state highway commission should demand a 100 foot right of way, when the width of the pavement will be limited to 30 feet. These officials pointed out that a 70 foot right of way would provide adequate space for the pavement, shoulders, drainage facilities, and public utility necessities.

Alternate Route

As a result of the alleged excessive demands being made by the state highway commission, many Willamette valley residents are now discussing abandonment of the Pacific highway widening operations, and are proposing completion of the Salem-Champagne-Portland road. It was argued that this highway would be shorter in distance, and that the necessary right of way could be purchased much cheaper than along the route it is now proposed to widen.

Even though Marion county attempts to meet the demands of the highway commission, with relation to the purchase of additional right of way, the shortage of funds at this time probably will retard materially the construction operations, and prevent any work being done on the road next year.

A similar condition exists in Clackamas county, officials said.

C. K. Spaulding, Salem member of the state highway commission, announced in Oregon City last week that he was opposed to the 100 foot right-of-way, and thought a 60 foot right-of-way would be sufficient.

Other members of the state highway commission are J. C. Ainsworth of Portland and William Hanley of Burns.

It was reported Saturday that any attempt on the part of the state highway commission or the counties to force the 100 foot right-of-way will be opposed in the courts.

One petition protesting against the acquisition of additional right of way already has been presented to the Marion county court.

Society News

Politics Lecture Pleases A. A. U. W.

Members of the A. A. U. W. were pleased with the lecture which was presented by Prof. W. C. Jones on the general subject of "Politics," Saturday afternoon at the 1 o'clock luncheon meeting of the group in the Elks temple. Both humorous and instructive, Professor Jones made his points with much interest.

Prof. Cameron Marshall, head of the department of music in Willamette university, sang a group of numbers accompanied by Robert Magrin.

Mrs. Harry Keeney was hostess for the afternoon. The luncheon tables were attractively arranged with red tapers in silver sticks, and other Christmas symbols.

The next meeting will be the third Saturday in January.

Mrs. George Gibson Entertains Club

Mrs. George Gibson entertained at her home Friday afternoon in compliment to members of the Christmas social afternoon club. A Christmas scheme of decorations was carried out with the use of poinsettias, mistletoe and a beautiful, lighted Christmas tree.

A short business session was held, after which a Christmas program and social afternoon were enjoyed. At the close of the meeting refreshments in keeping with Christmas were served.

Jefferson. — Mrs. Lyman W. Patton and Mrs. Fred Wied were hostesses to the Jefferson Women's club at the home of the former Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. C. M. Smith opened the meeting. The roll call, "Christmas in Other Lands," was interesting and educational; E. J. Wright gave a vocal solo, "The Heavenly Song" (Dudley Buck); Miss Margaret Looney read an interesting Christmas story, and the program was brought to a close with a vocal solo by Mr. Wright.

Gifts from the hostesses were distributed by a real Santa Claus, and luncheon was served. Members present were Mrs. A. B. Hinz, Mrs. D. H. Looney, Mrs. C. L. Thurston, Mrs. John Terhune, Mrs. Herbert Looney, Mrs. H. D. Mars, Mrs. C. M. Smith, Mrs. V. D. Looney, Mrs. Karl Steiwer, Mrs. M. D. Looney, Miss Eleanor Looney, Mrs. James Pate, Mrs. W. H. Hey, Mrs. Robert Terhune, Miss Marguerite Looney and the hostesses, Mrs. Patton and Mrs. Wied.

Guests for the afternoon were Miss Esther Roland, Mrs. E. E. Dent, R. J. Wright, Mrs. Fred Barna and son Billy, Mrs. C. M. Aupperle and Mrs. J. T. Jones.

Zena. — Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Henry were hosts at an informal dinner at their rural home, "Maple Meadows," Friday night. "Maple Meadows" is a charming bridge was the guest group including Mr. and Mrs. Bert B. Flack of Kingwood Heights, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Russell and Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Crews of Salem, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Henry and small daughter, Corinne and the hosts, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Henry of Zena.

Cleo Chance, Mills City, and Alice Marie Verntag, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Wilkinson of Stayton, were married Saturday afternoon at the home of the officiating minister, Rev. D. J. Howe. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Preston of Mill City attended them. Mr. and Mrs. Chance will make their home at Mill City.

West Way Club of the Women's Benefit Association for this year will be headed by Mrs. Avis Martin. Other officers are Mrs. Katherine Bernard, vice-president; Jennie Miller, secretary-treasurer; Agnes Coenberg, chair-

man membership committee; Sophia Mapleshorpe, sewing committee chairman.

War Mothers Plan Christmas Party

Carols and readings all in compliment to the Christmas season will feature the Tuesday meeting of the American War Mothers at 2 o'clock in the American Lutheran church. Christmas will also be apparent in the decorations which will grace the social rooms.

Following the program Mrs. Mae Salisbury and her committee will serve tea. Assisting Mrs. Salisbury will be Mrs. Carrie Beecher, Mrs. Rose Hagedorn, Mrs. Prudence Bouffleur, Mrs. Lena Charrington, Mrs. Mary Eyre, Mrs. Minnie Keeney, Mrs. Anna Lewis, and Mrs. Lucetta White.

Hubbard. — The Pink and Lavender club will meet in its regular session December 22 at the home of Mrs. Anna Scholl. A special feature on the program will be a Christmas tree and the exchange of gifts among the members.

Members of the Yoemen and their friends held a card party at the Fraternal temple Saturday evening. Refreshments were served at the close of playing.

Chadwick Chapter Plans Christmas

The annual Christmas program for Chadwick chapter, Order of Eastern Star, will be observed Tuesday night in the Masonic temple. Mrs. Susan Varty will be in charge of the program of music and a play.

There will be a large Christmas tree and this will be arranged with inexpensive gifts. The men are taking charge of this party and William Neimeyer and his committee will be in charge of the exchange of presents.

David Wright and his committee will be in charge of the decorations and Lou Grote and his committee will take charge of the refreshments.

Sidney. — Mrs. L. B. Smith was hostess to the Ankeny Woman's club at her home Thursday afternoon. Roll call was answered with Christmas suggestions.

Club members present were Mrs. George Marlatt, Mrs. J. O. Farr, Mrs. Sidney Howard, Mrs. C. F. Johnston, Mrs. R. H. Farr and Mrs. Charles Whitaker of Los Angeles, who was a visitor. Names were drawn for the club Christmas, which will be held at Mrs. Swartz' home Tuesday, December 22.

The Leslie Girl Reserve group will hold its Christmas party Wednesday afternoon after school at the Y. W. C. A. and at this time will bring in ceremonial presentation of the gifts which will be presented by it to the tuberculosis hospital children December 23.

TAX LEVY WILL BE REPORTED MONDAY

Will be Limited to School Item With Rate About 2.09 Mills, Word

The tax levy for 1932, based on the property valuations for this year, will be announced by the state tax commission here Monday.

The state tax for 1932 will be limited to the elementary school levy, with a rate of approximately 2.09 mills. The state tax for 1931, based on the property valuation for last year, was 6 1/2 mills.

It was possible to wipe out the state tax on property for next year, exclusive of the elementary school levy, through the elimination of certain fixed taxes, and increased receipts. Among the levies eliminated were the one-half mill tax for the operation of the world war veterans state aid commission. The market road tax law was repealed at the 1931 legislative session, while the one-half mill tax for the world war veterans state aid commission, was waived for the year 1932.

The records show that the market road tax raised approximately \$1,125,000 annually, while the world war veterans state aid tax raised \$650,000 each year. A report issued recently by the world war veterans state aid commission indicated that ample money was available to conduct that department during the next year.

In calculating the 1932 state tax levy it also was necessary for the state tax commission to take into consideration receipts from the intangibles, personal income and corporation excise tax laws enacted by the 1931 legislature. These receipts will aggregate approximately \$4,000,000, members of the state tax commission said.

A compilation completed Saturday shows that the county property valuations in Oregon are lower this year than for some time past. This situation will enter into the returns from the millage levies which are outside of the six per cent limitation. At a recent meeting of the state board of higher education in Salem it was estimated that the millage receipts for the support of the higher educational institutions in 1932 would show a decrease of \$60,000 when compared with the receipts from the same source this year.

The public utility property valuations for 1931, on which the 1932 tax levy will be based, are slightly in excess of those fixed by the state tax commission for last year.

Forty members of the high school Epworth League of the Jason Lee church with their advisor, Mrs. Nelson, held a Christmas party at the church Friday night. The group played Christmas games and refreshments were served.

Miss Lena Belle Tartar, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Tartar and daughter Ann, will motor to Eugene today to hear the presentation of the University of Oregon music department of Handel's "Messiah."

GALLOWAY FIRM ON MILL ASSESSMENTS

Bend Companies Treated Too Well Previously Says Tax Commissioner

Charles V. Galloway, member of the state tax commission, will not give an inch in connection with the proposal that the Shevlin-Hixon and Brooks - Scanlon timber companies, operating near Bend in Deschutes county, shall receive a depreciation item of six per cent for a period of four or five years in the future, based on their property valuations.

This was made plain by Galloway Saturday, after he had considered further the request for a readjustment of the tax differences existing between the state tax commission and the mill owners.

The proposal to allow the two mill companies a depreciation item of six per cent on their equipment and machinery, so that the operators would pay the last half of their 1931 taxes without further delay or litigation, was placed before the state board of control and state tax commission here yesterday by F. S. McGarvey, N. R. Gilbert and C. L. Manheimer, representing the Bend chamber of commerce and many taxpayers of the Bend district.

McGarvey told the state tax commissioners that unless some adjustment was made and the mill companies paid their last half taxes for 1931, it might be necessary to close or curtail the activities of two school districts at Bend. McGarvey also emphasized the statement that the non-payment of the tax by the mill companies had depleted the Deschutes county treasury and had deterred many other taxpayers from remitting their tax obligations for the last half of the year.

After delving deeper into the tax records of Deschutes county today, Galloway declared that for many years the property valuations of the two Bend mills were held at a ridiculously low figure. Galloway charged that this situation apparently was due to the indifference of the Deschutes county assessor.

An examiner of the operators' division, secretary of state, may be held liable for damages resulting from an accident involving the car in which he is conducting a driving examination if the examiner disregards the laws of the road, or in any way is negligent in directing the applicant as to the manner in which he shall proceed.

This was the opinion of Attorney General VanVinkle handed down Saturday.

Whether or not the driver is liable for damages in any given case is a question of fact to be decided from the evidence presented in the matter, Van Vinkle ruled.

The attorney general held that the examiner who has been appointed under the provisions of law to conduct examinations of applicants for operators and chauffeur licenses is performing a lawful duty.

The opinion was requested by Hal E. Hoss, secretary of state.

Illinois' birth rate for 1930 was 16.7, lowest in all time, but it topped the death rate, which was 10.9, also a new low.

Molalla Man is Seeking Permit

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Christmas Gifts --

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Rollins Runstop
NEW NET HOSE
in black and other late shades —
you must see this new number to appreciate it!

\$2.00 3 pairs **\$5.50**

Ladies' Leather and Silk Hand Bags
many new numbers — brown, black, green or blue —
last season \$4.95, \$5.95 and \$7.95 — now

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in wool, silk & wool, silk & rayon, lisle & rayon —
regular 50c, 75c, \$1—all go on sale, one price

3 pairs \$1.00

135 Liberty St. **The Price shoe Co.** Salem, Oregon

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SPECIAL PROGRAM AT PRESBYTERIAN

Problems in Christian living from the viewpoint of the young people of the church will be presented to the congregation attending services at the First Presbyterian church tonight. Members of the young people's department will furnish special music, the sermon and will lead in prayer.

Charles Gianoli, Willamette university sophomore and chairman of the program committee of the young people's Christian Endeavor society, has made arrangements for the program. He will deliver the sermon. Miss Mildred Walker will sing the offertory solo and Melvin Crow, society song leader will lead the congregational singing.

Other members of the society are: ... the choir ...