

County Stays Firmly on Cash Basis; Tax Collections Best in Six Years

Road Oil For County Tried

Court Pleased With Miles Laid and Talks Bigger Outlay, 1936

Program For Remodeling of Courthouse Fails; New Tax System in

Marion county continued throughout 1935 to stay on a cash basis. One of three counties in the state which has no warrant or bond indebtedness, the county was able from cash funds harbored in more prosperous days to meet all of its obligations without paying one cent of interest.

For the first time in six years tax collections in the county exceeded in total amount the \$1,570,000 tax roll of the current year. This did not mean that the county collected all of its current taxes—only slightly more than 70 per cent of these were paid to the sheriff's office. But collection of delinquent taxes came in with sufficient strength to bring the county, current and old taxes considered together, more than \$1,600,000. This figure includes the collections of the county for the schools, the cities and the school districts, for the bulk of the tax collected by the county does not go to county activities proper—the county only acts as a collection agency for other tax-paying and spending agencies.

County expenditures on roads ran to \$250,000. Of this sum, \$40,000 went for road oiling and grading, a new item in the budget of the county court. Twenty miles of road were oiled at an average cost of \$2000. The county court, seeking to deal equitably with all parts of the county, distributed its oiling program to main secondary roads in various portions of the county. Most satisfactory reports were received on road oiling. Wherever citizens used the roads they found them highly improved over the rocky roads of former years. The county court found itself besieged with demands for more oiled roads. The county court has contemplated an expenditure of \$60,000 for road oiling this coming year. Money for such work would come from a road fund surplus of \$150,000 carried into this year.

Maintenance Cost for Roads to be Reduced
The strength of the oiled road lies in its cheap maintenance cost. An ordinary road covered with gravel "loses" from 100 to 300 yards of covering each year. Replacing this gravel or crushed rock costs several hundred dollars annually. An oiled binds the rock, gives a smooth, easily traveled surface and eliminates a large portion of the annual upkeep cost.

Undoubtedly hundreds of miles of road will be oiled within the county within the next decade. The initial cost is holding the county back. Moreover, members of the county court want to become better acquainted with the use of the new machinery for oiling the court has purchased.

After the state capitol fire the county court appointed improvements with the view of giving better protection to county records in case of fire. This committee recommended improvements in the county jail, better vaults and improvements in the attic of the courthouse which was cleaned and improvements in the electric wiring were made. No improvements have been made in the vaults which continue as inadequate protection to the records of the county. The court held it unwise to proceed with any extensive remodeling project.

New Assessor Takes Over Work of Courthouse
Death of Oscar Steelhammer removed the county's assessor and his chief deputy for many years. "Tad" Shelton was named by the county court as Mr. Steelhammer's successor. Anxious to keep the costs of the office down, Mr. Shelton named no deputy to succeed him, depending on part-time help when the work of the office was heavy.

The county sheriff, A. C. Burk, completed installation of an improved bookkeeping system in the tax collection department. The system attracted favorable attention throughout the state and other counties sent representatives here to copy it. The county court, anxious to get at the bottom of rumors that funds were mishandled in the sheriff's office, employed the services of the state auditing department. For four months auditors were busy on the county's books. They found only slight discrepancies although some mislaid warrants totalling \$3000 were located.

Critical injuries to Judge John Siegmund in September near Bend incapacitated him for work for more than three months. As the new year started Judge Siegmund had made material improvement and was expected back, part time, at his office this month. For the past four weeks he has been signing official papers at his home here. The judge suffered a fractured vertebrae which has taken a great time to heal.

Charge Made in Engineer's Department
A change in the county court brought a new highway engineer for the county in Ronald Hubbs of Silverton, Hedda Swart, who had held the position for many years, going to the bridge department of the state highway commission here. Hubbs continued the maintenance program of the county but few roads were undertaken, these being minor roads in rural districts where a few farms had heretofore been unserved.

The county completed and occupied the large new shops for its equipment, built just north of the city limits between the Pacific and Silverton highways. As

Keeps Close Tabs on Schools



Day and night Mrs. Mary L. Fulkerson kept at her elected task of supervising the rural schools of Marion county. Efficient, sympathetic, hard-working, she has made friends everywhere of pupils and teachers.

Marion County Farmers Back of Adjustment Program and Plan to Go on With Signups for Future

4-Year Contracts Put Out for Wheat; No Reduction Now Asked

MARION county agriculturists, in the main, are pleased with the AAA "adjustment" program for farm products and will go along with the federal administration on its plans for 1936, according to the county agent's office.

As the new year starts, the sign-up for wheat control is nearly completed. In nearly every case where the grower had a large acreage he has signed for the new wheat program which is to cover four years. Growers of small acreage of wheat in some instances have not signed for the AAA program, considering it not worth while considering the amount of supervision and reports required by AAA officials.

In 1936 farmers will be asked to cut only five per cent of their acreage from the average of their "base" which is figured on the crop years, 1930 to 1932 inclusive. During 1935 the cut was ten per cent; in 1934 the reduction for wheat was 15 per cent.

Farmers will be paid 33 cents a bushel on 54 per cent of their base acreage; the 54 per cent as the proportion of American wheat production which ordinarily goes into domestic consumption. From the 33 cents the expenses of administering the district AAA offices are deducted.

Remaining Wheat Money To Go Out This Month
The first 20 cents of the 1935 wheat payments have been made as the year closed; the remaining payments will be made in about a month, after the checkup on 1935 production of wheat here has been completed.

A new arrangement is to be made in the "adjustment" program for corn-hogs in 1936 and 1937. Farmers will be paid \$1.25 a hog for their entire production, instead of being paid \$15 a hog for the percentage of hogs they did not produce, the system followed in 1935. During the past year the curtailment ordered was 10 per cent of the hogs raised during the 1932-1933 period which was the base set for the farmer. The next year a farmer must raise at least 50 per cent of his base allotment for hogs. This rule has been made to prevent farmers receiving benefits for not raising any hogs.

Due to the shortage now existing in hogs, no reduction will be asked over the 1932-1933 base of production. A farmer, for example, whose average production of hogs in 1932-1933 was 100, can raise 100 hogs this year and still obtain the benefit payments of \$1.25 a head on all hogs, up to 100, raised. He must, however, raise at least 50 hogs to get any of the benefits.

Potato Act Compulsory For All Large Growers
Late this month a series of meetings will be held in the county relating to the new potato production law. This measure dif-

fered the year closed the old highway shops of the county on Center street were being demolished. SERRA work was utilized both in constructing the new shops and in demolishing those on Center streets. The county court cooperated to the full with WPA in the latter's problem of placing men from the relief rolls. An all-county road project was undertaken; men were scattered in districts throughout the county and clearing of brush from rights-of-way, grading and retaining of roadways went on steadily from December 1. Seven hundred men found WPA employment with the county, the latter furnishing most of the tools and some of the supervisors.

Milk, Butter Bring in Cash

Million Pounds of Butter Made Here in 1935; Price up 20%

Nearly 10,000,000 pounds of inspected milk—or nearly 400 pounds for every man, woman and child in Marion county—was produced in the Salem territory for sale during the 365 days of 1935. Only every man, woman and child didn't have a chance at that 400 pounds, for only 6,000,000 pounds of milk went on the Salem market. The balance, about 3,500,000 pounds, was produced here but marketed in Portland.

Nearly 78 per cent of the inspected milk produced in this territory came from the dairies of Dairy Co-operative association members, with the balance from unorganized producers.

And while the cows locally were producing that much milk for market, they were also helping create the butterfat which resulted in about 1,040,000 pounds of butter being churned through the four Salem creameries.

And incidentally, that butterfat, at an average price of 50 cents per pound, has been worth about a quarter million dollars to the dairymen during 1935—or about 20 per cent more than it was worth during 1934. The 10 million pounds of milk which went to market was worth approximately \$200,000 at the quotation set by the state milk control board for this area.

18,000 Cows Produce in Marion County

Outlook for the dairymen in the new 12 months is generally held to be pretty encouraging, due not only to the boost in butterfat prices the past year but to some less encouraging, in themselves, 1935 factors. Chief among these is that fact that of the 18,000 cows in Marion county, 60 per cent were tested under the federal testing program the past year—and that as a result 8 per cent of the 10,800 cows tested—or 864 cows—were eliminated from the picture.

At the last session of congress have made the "adjustment" program constitutional and able to survive the test of the supreme court.

The emphasis in AAA is now "adjustment" not curtailment. In future years an expansion program may be necessary. AAA officials say they want a program continued which will permit planned adjustment of farm crops to consumer demand; in some years curtailment may be needed; in others increased production may be deemed essential.

Farmers in the county were worried in mid-year over the possibility of AAA's invalidation. They are now reported to believe that amendments made to the act

Hop Celebration at Independence High Spot; Crowds of 25,000 Had; Crop Itself Light, Unprofitable

Revetment Job Said to End Washing of River at Its Big Turn

By ALICE ROBINSON Staff Correspondent

INDEPENDENCE, Dec. 31.—Several happenings stand out as in a brief review of Independence during 1935. The most outstanding was the second annual hop fiesta August 29, 30 and 31. The birth of pageantry was signaled by the coronation of Queen Joan Dickson as ruler of "Hop City" for the three days celebration. More than 25,000 people witnessed the fiesta events in which hundreds of townfolk in the role of entertainers, and the great migration of hop pickers.

Permanent field lights were installed in the hop bowl, Independence's stadium for special events. Deals were made to purchase enough property adjoining the bowl to give the city a park extending to the river, and providing for recreational facilities. Plans were made by the city council and hop bowl committee to provide a well drained field for football and baseball games. The remainder of the land is to be used for playground equipment.

A second factor is the comparatively heavy shipments of dairy cattle from this section to California dairies during the past year. As the year closes, the best dairy cattle are worth \$75 to \$80 apiece, as against a top of \$50 to \$60 a year ago. Still another factor which is helping bolster the butterfat market is the decrease in importations from New Zealand. This is held to be one cause for the stiff butter market which has prevailed since Thanksgiving—usually end of this holiday being a signal for the market to fall to the consumer's way of thinking. This year the usual post-Thanksgiving drop failed to materialize.

And a factor since fall in the purely local market is the opening of the dairy co-op cream station here, with an higher quotation than formerly offered locally in comparison with the Portland market. Other local buyers lifted to the same level as soon as the co-op move was announced.

dressing rooms for swimmers and possibly a concrete swimming pool.

Hop Surplus Worries All Valley Growers
The hop harvest was a great disappointment this season to growers and to the city. Growers were faced with the problem of a mounting surplus of hops and low prices offered.

Another notable happening was the two-day Jersey show in the hop bowl in May. Buyers came to Independence from all sections of the United States. Jersey men around Independence are known for their record herds. One of L. A. Hulbert's Jerseys won the champion sweepstakes of the show. Hulbert sold a Jersey bull to a Minnesota buyer for \$3250, the bull being the sire of a record herd.

The river revetment project at Independence was completed in December. The embankment has a 15 foot crown 24 feet above the low water mark at the edge of the river. From this crown the slope of the embankment goes down to the river at a gradual four to seven slant. This gives a tremendous protection wall to the river. A four to one slant has a one foot drop to each four feet of embankment. Mr. Stewart, federal inspector on the job, stated that under ordinary conditions the embankment should last forever. Property owners are confident that the river will give them no more trouble.

The city council adopted \$11,918 budget for the coming year. Mandatory expenses set levy; financial data shows city to be in strong position.

River Lowest Level in 40 Years
During November and December was lower than it had been for 40 years. The Polk-Marion county ferry was not switched to upper landing until December 12, the latest time known.

O. A. Kraemer sold his men's furnishings shop to Salem business men after being in this business for 45 years. He opened an optical shop on Monmouth street in the First National Bank building shortly after the sale. The City cafe, owned by Claud Thompson and Gladys Nelson, was damaged by fire in October, and was completely remodeled and is operating again. A. L. Thomas purchased the old Knights of Pythias building next to the First National bank, and had it removed. He is planning to build a hardware warehouse on the property.

The Earl Rickards service station on C street was sold to M. Sulmer of Montana, who is oper-

Stayton Pack Breaks Marks

75,000 Cases of Beans and Same Amount of Prunes Put Into Cans

STAYTON, Dec. 31.—The year of 1935 has been a most satisfactory one for Stayton's industries. The major one, the Stayton cooperative cannery, built a large new warehouse owing to the demand for canned goods. The pack was the largest in history, more than 75,000 cases of beans being packed and about the same amount of prunes. The cooperative paid a dividend this year on their preferred stock. A higher per cent of output has been sold than at any other time at this time of the year.

R. D. Paris of the Paris Woolen mill, reports a 35 to 40 per cent increase in business over the year of 1934. The mill spent considerable in the way of repairs and improvements. The Western Batt & Bedding company sums up their year of 1935 as "the best ever." The C. & P. company, also wool batt manufacturers, report a good year.

The Korinek Remedy company reports considerable increase in the demand for its products. There are no vacant houses here, and little if any unemployment. The schools have had a good attendance. Several new homes have been built and many have made improvements on their property. The business district went in for marquees which added considerable to the appearance of that section.

The First National bank of Portland opened a branch bank here. Merchants report that trade increased considerably. Fred Albus erected a new drug store building. Considerable street work and drainage has been done, funds being allocated by the government. In February work will begin on a new city hall, WPA to contribute \$4,690 and Stayton to raise about \$2,982 for material and labor.

Flax Production Here Only One of Kind in U. S.; Fibra Is Long

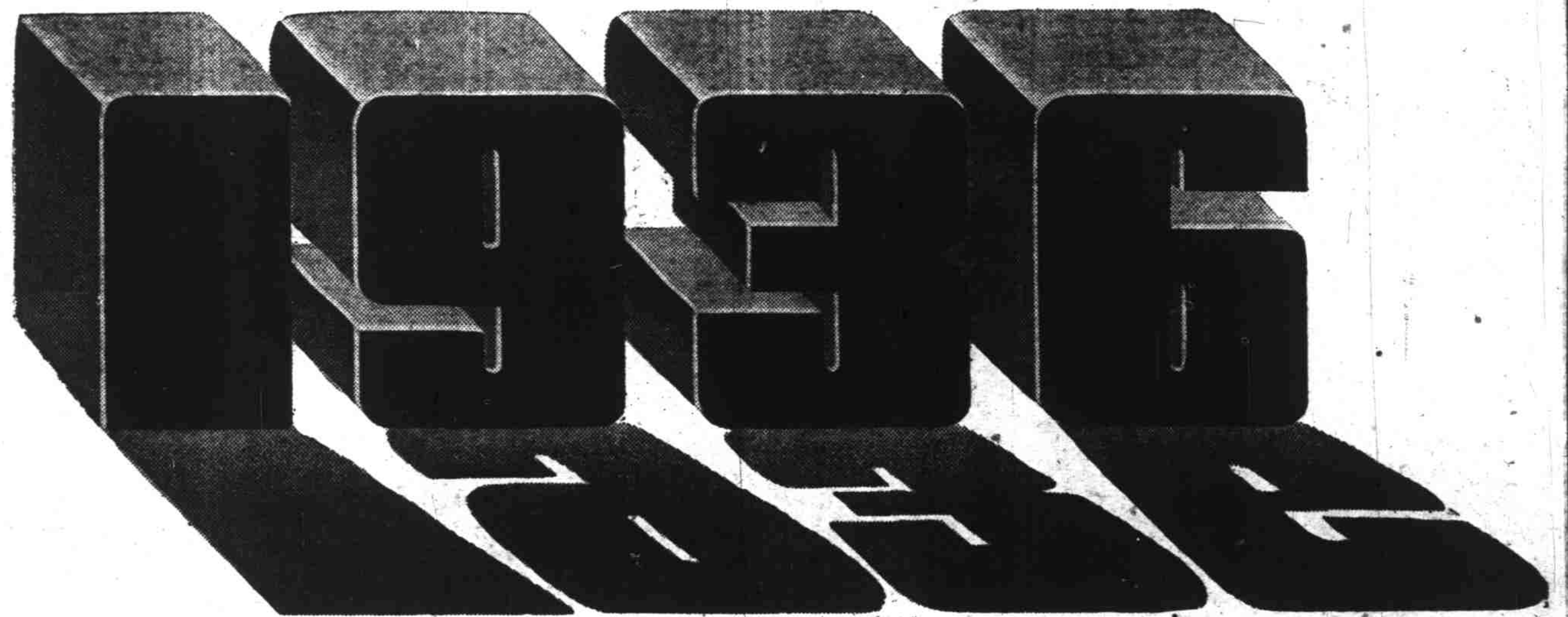
You may state: Salem is in the center of the only long fibre flax growing district in the United States. Center of the only commercial flax growing in the U. S. and also center of the greatest hop acreage in the whole U. S. And if the flax breeders continue to increase stocks, Salem will be a real fur center. Ask Eugene Findlay of Jefferson, secretary of the Oregon State Fox Breeders association, which will hold its annual meeting and election at the chamber of commerce in Salem, January 15.

Homer Woods constructed three new homes on Third street and remodeled his own residence.

Independence hopes that 1936 will bring the plans of the future hop bowl park to completion.

Winter Outdoor Sports Development Under Way

Do you ski? And do you snowshoe and do you skate? Very pertinent questions as the Willamette National Forest officials have recently constructed a hut and ski run at Idanha, few miles beyond Detroit. The Chemeketa, Santiam Ski club and chamber of commerce will sponsor a real outing of skiing and snowshoeing just as soon as weather conditions invite.



Shadows of 1936! Forerunners of Good Things to Come!
Shadows that will dissolve as the year unfolds itself, revealing Happiness and Prosperity in abundance . .
Our wish for you all!

Bishop's
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