

Monitor Pupils Birthday Guests

MONITOR—The first and second grades were guests at a birthday party last week for Clarke Hanson, who was celebrating his seventh birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Swanson entertained last week for Mr. and

Mrs. Dale McKee of Lebanon, Mrs. Edith Johnson of Hubbard, Reubel and Wanda Beer, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tuson, Adele Blaufus, Jan and Janice and Harold Forkner, all of Portland.

Mrs. Ida Dimick has returned from Taft where she has been visiting. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Gregeron, Donald and Trudy returned with her and visited friends and relatives in Monitor and Silverton last week end.

Queen



SILVERTON, Feb. 12—Vera Baller will reign as Silverton's queen of hearts for the month of February following her selection by students of Silverton high school. The selection is an annual affair of the high school during Valentine season.

AFM Re-Elects List of Officers

Salem local 315, American Federation of Musicians, will meet at 8 o'clock Monday night in the Labor temple.

The local reported Saturday that its slate of officers were re-elected at a recent voting. Officers for 1949 include Glenn Hoar, president; Maurice Brennen, vice president; David M. Nyberg, secretary-treasurer, and Donald Stoudermeyer, sergeant-at-arms.

It also was revealed that a series of recently completed free teen-age dances, sponsored in this area by the union, cost \$1,367. This money came from the local's recording royalties fund.

Chicken-Pox Cases Decline

Reported cases of chicken-pox in Marion county dropped to seven last week from 18 during the previous week, the county department of health said Saturday.

"Estimation of the prevalence of the disease is difficult," one health official said, "because not all cases are reported." Four of the reported cases last week occurred in Salem and three in the rest of the county. Cases were described as "normal" for this time of year.

With Watson at the Legislature

Even Mort Tompkins Eases Up On Praise of 6% Tax Limitation

By Ralph Watson

Before we start talking about taxes let's talk for a minute about Tompkins. Every time anybody starts thinking about taxes or raising revenue in the state of Oregon he gets a sort of television glimpse of him. There was a time, a few sessions ago, when taxes, PUD's, power and what not were the major issues—as is largely true even yet—sailing it had to be "cleared through Mort."

That slogan was somewhat facetious but it still carried enough of the tang of variety to be displeasing to the master of the state grange who really is a companionable person, especially when he is on your side of the boundary fence. This brings us up to the point where it may be confided that the tax situation has reached the place where Mr. Tompkins is easing up on his unremitting championship of the 6 per cent tax limitation amendment to the constitution. He does not believe that he, and the Grange, are ready quite yet to "go along" with any proposition to alter, amend or repeal the amendment. But maybe, next session he says, that time might be ripe.

Ready to Ditch Amendment

The "labor boys" Tompkins says, are ready to ditch the amendment right now, or at least to kick a hole in the fiscal barrier which hedges real property away from the too eager hands of those who fix up the state and local budgets. But the Grange is imbued with a spirit of caution and would rather see what the current legislature does in the field of taxation and revenue before starting to take any pickets off the six per cent fence.

Sometimes he wonders, Mr. Tompkins suggests, whether the 6 per cent limitation hasn't worked in reverse to what the original intention of its sponsors may have been; whether the continual fear of "losing their base" has not kept tax levying units everywhere stepping their levies up to the limit year by year. But the demands on property are increasing; the fiscal needs of a rapidly expanding state are straining at the 6 per cent fence surrounding the budget makers so that Mr. Tompkins has reached the place where he is almost persuaded that the old fence needs fixing. Caution delays conviction for another two years.

What is "Cushion"

And, while Mr. Tompkins discusses the 6 per cent barrier, the excise tax tangle and its \$60 million surplus—which is the \$60 million question now bothering the legislature—he also raises the question of what is a "cushion," what is a "back log" and what is the difference between the two. In general parlance, of course, a cushion is a nice soft pillow with a pretty cover, which is kept on the davenport to prop up a tired and aching back, and a backlog is a big chunk of hard wood to put in the fireplace before which you can snooze in comfort while the storm howls outside the window. That wasn't what Mr. Tompkins was talking about, however.

Those who have hung around the legislature in years gone by wouldn't expect Senator Dean Walker and Grange Master Tompkins ever to get within shouting distance of one another about

tucked away on the state's budgetary davenport to keep the back from aching if hard times hit it. A lot of folks thought that was being mighty cautious and foresighted.

"Cushion" Has Grown

But instead of hard times the war babies hit us and fed excise and income taxes into the kitty until instead of having a \$5 million "cushion" the state treasury has a \$60 million "surplus" which the legislature now is trying to find some way to spend.

The big brass of the state institutions, colleges, schools and what not are all sitting around with their hands out for their cut into the \$60 million jackpot. And right there is when Mr. Tompkins comes in. He thinks it to be the part of caution and fiscal wisdom to tuck away, not a \$5 million "cushion" like Senator Walker did, but a \$40 million "backlog" just in case the state gets cold financial feet between now and the 1951 legislature.

All of which just takes a step or so toward where the taxation

experts are milling round and round what sometime sooner or later will become the "tax program" submitted to the legislature for adoption, or rejection.

The maximum recorded depth of the ocean is a point in the Pacific east of the Philippines: 35,400 feet — 6,398 feet deeper than Mount Everest is high.



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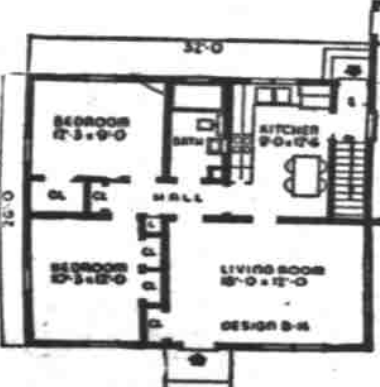
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The kitchen in The Brooks provides plenty of cupboard space as well as a large dining area.

There is an area of 832 square feet and a volume of 16,640 cubic feet. However, these measurements do not include the garage.

The simplicity of The Brooks' framing floor, walls and roof, makes for economy in construction.

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