

Blackberry Crop
 (UP) — The Oregon Fruit Control Board decided today to drop the blackberry price from 11 to 8 cents a pound. The price last year was 10 cents. The board said it took the action because the market is falling in Washington State, where some berries are selling for as low as 6 cents a pound.

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Community Property Law Discussed Before Rotary

The Oregon community property law, in effect a little over a year, affects almost everyone but is understood by too few people, members of Rotary Club were told Tuesday noon by William J. Robert, Eugene attorney who cooperated in writing a recent book on the law which was adopted in Oregon July 5, 1947.

"Theory of the law is a concept whereby man and wife share equally in profits, gains and property acquired during their marriage," the lawyer explained. "All these gains belong to both, with the title vested equally."

Not "Windfalls" Robert explained that community property is that property acquired through efforts of the spouse who earns the money, and excludes gifts, inheritances from wills, and like "windfalls."

This creates situations which did not exist prior to adoption of the law in Oregon, Robert declared. One of the differences is that a man's wife now owns half of all the property her husband has acquired since the date the law passed, so that husbands who earn for the family usually bear the brunt of the law.

The community of the husband and wife is often regarded somewhat in the light of a partnership, the lawyer said. It is considered a business community of man and wife. The law thus applies only to married couples, and not to single persons except in their business dealings with married persons.

Robert outlined the history of the community property law, pointing out that it originated in Germany in the fourth or fifth century. It spread next to Spain, and in 643 the Spanish had a polished code for the principles of community property.

It was universally adopted in Spain as the basic concept of property ownership, and spread next to South America, Mexico, and then to the United States.

The community property law was used by several states before and after they attained statehood, being carried there by Spanish colonists.

Some of the states which have always worked with the law are Washington, California, Idaho and Texas.

To Save Taxes
 In addition, other states have adopted the law by legislation, moved mainly by the desire to save on the federal income tax. The tax was hitting persons in the higher income brackets. Under the new law they can divide earnings in two with husband and wife filing separate returns.

Oregon adopted a system in 1943 which enabled the heavier taxpayers to split incomes and save on tax. The law operated so that a couple might register voluntarily with the state as community property holders.

Repealed
 However, the Department of Internal Revenue would not recognize this type of voluntary law, and it was consequently repealed. A complication which has arisen is that some couples have been community property holders since 1943, since they failed to have their registration as such removed when the 1943 law was repealed.

The Oregon law was patterned closely but not exactly after the Oklahoma law which was passed in 1945. This law is not elective. It cannot be avoided, Robert declared.

Good Idea
 The Oregon law has wide implications, the local lawyer believes. He thinks it is good from a sociological viewpoint, as it gives a woman half of all the gains during her marriage.

However, the law specifies rather vaguely that management and control of the property remain in the hands of the person who acquires the property.

The husband, then, can spend his salary as he pleases, except that he "must act in reasonably good faith, can't give it away or spend it recklessly," Robert said.

All He Buys
 All he buys with the money, be it real or personal property, is of community character. An auto bought by the husband becomes community property and cannot be disposed of without consent of the wife.

Robert listed several reasons why the law is difficult to administer. He pointed out that creditors don't like it, and the community property is not liable for separate debts of husband or wife.

Policemen But Never Goldfish

BEVERLY HILLS, Cal. — (UP) — Three Yale students were out \$50 each Wednesday for playing policemen.

Thomas Hopkins, New Bedford, Mass., and William Klenk and George Webster, both of New York City, pleaded guilty Tuesday to a disorderly conduct charge and were fined.

They admitted driving around town with a howling siren on their car. Several motorists said the trio stopped them and posed as special officers.

"A few years ago, Yale students led the way in eating goldfish," Police Judge Charles J. Griffin told the 21-year-old youths. "If you are samples of what Yale is turning out, I'm glad my youngsters didn't go there."

Outside the courtroom, Webster corrected the judge on one point. "Yale men never did eat goldfish," he said. "That they can blame on Harvard."

MRS. ROOSEVELT INVITED
 WASHINGTON — (AP) — President Truman invited Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt to the White House Nations General Assembly. Mrs. Roosevelt is an American delegate to the meeting.



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