

THE BEND BULLETIN

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PROPOSED ONE MILL ROAD TAX

Yesterday we discussed the county road budget and paid particular attention to the expenditure that is proposed to total \$44,250. To us it definitely does not have the aspect it should have, that is, of a budget made with the county's war needs in mind. We invite expressions on the subject from our readers.

Today let us examine the other side of the budget proposal involving the income or revenue with which road expenditures are financed.

Against that proposed expenditure of \$44,250 the budget work sheet shows a grand total of expected income amounting to \$86,906. The items are few. One, \$10,000 from a proposed one mill tax, is in error. As stated yesterday, if there is a tax the county return will be around \$8,000 rather than \$10,000. That cuts the total to \$84,906. On the other hand the county income from the motor vehicle fund seems underestimated by at least \$2,500 and correcting for that fact gives a total of \$87,406. That is the figure we take to work with.

If the full \$44,250 of the budget is expended in the coming fiscal year the county will have a cash surplus in the road fund on June 30, 1944 of over \$31,000. We think that the county neither should nor can spend its full proposed budget and that therefore the surplus will be more than \$31,000. It will also have \$7,400 in war bonds thus developing a balance of around \$40,000. Our guess is that under the budget as proposed and with war conditions that they are the balance will be more than \$40,000.

Forty thousand dollars or thereabouts being the prospective, indeed the assured, balance it is obvious that the proposed one mill tax (raising about \$8,000) is not to be levied for road construction this coming year. Its purpose, obviously, is to help swell the reserve for after-the-war use.

We believe, and we think that many agree, that it will be desirable to have a road fund for post-war use. There are two ways to build such a fund, one by economy in current spending and the other by levying taxes. The budget proposal is for the latter method only. There is no noticeable economy in a budget of \$44,250.

A levy of one mill does not make much of a burden. However, Bend property owners are faced with a higher city tax than last year and the federal tax load is growing continually. Without the proposed road levy the county will have over \$30,000 as a post-war reserve. Does it need \$8,000 more? Should today's taxpayers be forced to contribute to this fund?

Our answer to these questions is "No." What do taxpayers all over the country think? We invite correspondence on the subject. We suggest the desirability of informing the budget committee of your feelings on the subject. Perhaps we are all wrong. Perhaps it is desirable to raise \$40,000 instead of \$32,000. Perhaps the people would like to pay an extra mill on their taxes for the purpose.

Let's learn what the sentiment is. Is it for a tax and no economy, for both economy and a tax or for economy and no tax?

Soap sales are off but it would make little difference if Washington would come clean with news.

Donald Stockton Listed Missing

Redmond, May 21—Word was received here yesterday that Captain Donald E. Stockton, son of Mr. and Mrs. McKinley Stockton, has been reported missing in action since May 14, in Europe. Captain Stockton, 22 years of age, had recently received the oak leaf cluster and other awards for gallantry, bravery and valor in action in air raids in European cities.

Don was a Redmond high school graduate and attended college at Stanford university. He was a pilot of large planes. Aside from his parents he has one sister, Wilma, a student at Cottey college and two brothers, Richard and Oliver of California.

Mr. and Mrs. Stockton recently moved from Redmond to their former home at Redondo Beach, Calif.

RECORD SEEMS SAID—East Lane's 14th 9th Mich' gan State colicr doesn't expect its one-game baseball scoring record to be broken by Spartan athletes for some time to come. Files showed that the college rolled up a 53-to-9 score against Lansing in 1886.

Others Say ...

A GOOD RECORD BEHIND HIM

(Astorian-Budget)

Ormond R. Bean, who retires on June 1 as public utilities commissioner of the state, will leave behind him a record that is a credit to himself and to the state. He has conducted that office during the past four years in a highly competent manner and in a most difficult period. With the question of public versus private ownership of electric utilities being waged over the state, he has maintained an attitude of dispassionate objectivity and impartiality which greatly enhanced the value of his service. What his future plans are we do not know but there should be plenty of positions open to one who has demonstrated the abilities he has as utilities commissioner and as city commissioner of Portland for six prior years.

George Flagg, who has been appointed to succeed him as utilities commissioner, is fully equipped to carry on this important office. As chief deputy to Governor Snell during the latter's eight years as secretary of the state, he is well acquainted with state affairs and has proven his qualifications as an intelligent, competent official.

Buy National War Bonds Now!

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A Bad Case of Earburn



SERIAL STORY Beth Carter, WAAC

BY LORETTE COOPER

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The story: Beth Carter, WAAC, is Major Brit Jackson's "one-man" staff on the tiny camouflaged island in the Pacific where his unit of the Coast Artillery Barrage Balloon Battalion is based. Information leaks are suspected. After Beth overhears the mysterious Lita Danton persuade Brit to give free passage to the plane that brought her and her companion, Rick Roth, into a forced landing on the island, an important paper is discovered missing. Beth decides to do some sleuthing on her own. She sees Brit meet Lita and Rick secretly. He seems about to divulge important military information when they suddenly became aware of her presence.

though it had become the past. "Step this way," Brit ordered. The menacing pistol still pointed in her direction. Beth obeyed. She was at the edge of a small cleared space. Brit had moved slightly toward her and away from Lita and Rick. "Now," Brit said, and his tone of voice was controlled and very distinct, "remember that everything that has occurred will have its proper importance in a court-martial, for the people on this island are subject to military law." He swung around so that the pistol was pointing at Lita and Rick. "Hands up! No, don't reach for your picket, Mr. Moth, or I shall shoot."

With obvious amazement, Lita and Rick raised their hands. Brit kept his eyes focused intently on them. But his lips spoke to Beth.

"You're entitled to know about this little drama, Lieutenant Carter," he said. "I thought over what you told me this afternoon. I devised a ruse to investigate that possibility thoroughly. I found that—to my amazement, for it was hard to believe even after the proof was unmistakable—that your reasoning was correct. You see before you two very clever spies, one of whom, I'm sorry to say, was almost able to use successfully an old acquaintance with me. I knew you were watching the seaplane, because I followed you and noticed you at your hiding place. Then I returned to headquarters area and came down the beach—not noisily enough to make it appear I was innocent of all design, but nevertheless making just sufficient noise so that I knew you could not miss observing me. I went to the seaplane. Mr. Moth and Miss Danton do not know it, but I have in my pocket the document they stole. I have almost placed in my mind the precise hour when they stole it—and I am confident that while Mr. Moth may not be an ex-crackman, as you suggested the thief might be, he certainly has had considerable experience at opening even the more difficult types of safes."

"Your wall safe proved no severe test of my ingenuity at all,"

Rick Moth volunteered, coolly. "I opened it while Lita engaged a guard by showing him her credentials. It was only a matter of a few minutes... less than 10, I believe, from the beginning to the end of the transaction."

"Very good of you to confess," Brit said. "I hope you took all that in, Beth. By the way, I'm sorry you had to overhear so many insults and disparagements. I tried to soften them as best I could without arousing suspicion. The truth is, I betrayed you—I told Lita and Mr. Roth you were watching us, because I felt that this further ruse would enable me to lead them here, where they could be captured while off guard. What better way of drawing my pistol without danger, than to have them think I was pointing it exclusively at you!"

Lita and Rick were silent. "I'm... I'm glad it's this way instead of the other," Beth said. "I was afraid you would be very angry..."

"Angry? Only at myself for not seeing through Lita Danton sooner."

So suddenly that he was caught off balance, a form hurled itself onto Brit and he went down, pinned from behind. Beth turned to fight, but Lita and Rick quickly grabbed her and she found her arms pinioned and useless. "You will stay there, please,"

a suave Oriental voice said to Brit. "I will tie you in a moment." Lita laughed harshly. "It looks like the tables are turned, Major Smart-Aleck Jackson. And as for you, Miss America in Khaki, I think your days of usefulness to anyone including your brilliant Brit, are pretty well nearing an end. You see, we think of everything." There was no reply possible. Brit and Beth were bound and gagged and were marched, with pistols at their backs, hurriedly to the beach and the boat. On the seaplane, the gags were removed, but not the bonds. Beth and Brit were put unceremoniously into the baggage-compartment. "I took care of one of your sentries, too," Rick boasted. Then he closed the compartment door. The plane motor sputtered, then the spatter smoothed into a roar. Beth and Brit were jostled together as the plane left the cove. (To Be Continued)

Bend's Yesterdays

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

(From The Bulletin, Mar 21, 1928) Frank T. Johns, of Portland, socialist-labor candidate for senator of the United States, was drowned here last night in an attempt to rescue from drowning Jack Rhodes, 10-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Rhodes. Johns was speaking to a group assembled near the Drake park bandstand when Jack fell in the river from the footbridge and called for help. Both bodies have been taken from the river. The Orange Mill, which has been operated for the past year on Oregon avenue by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Dyer, has been moved to the Capitol theater building on Wall street.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(From The Bulletin, May 21, 1913) Mayor S. C. Caldwell left this morning for Portland to attend a conference of Oregon mayors. Saved from an icy bath in the waters of the log boom at the hands of irate employees of Brooks-Scanlon logging camp, two men were brought to Bend last night by the sheriff and kept in jail for their own protection. The incident occurred after the two men refused to make donations to the Red Cross fund. Bend went over the top in contributing her quota of \$5,250 for the Red Cross drive, it was announced last night. Only one day's work was required to get the needed amount of money.

CANDIDATE FOR 'MEANEST'

Pasadena, Calif. (AP)—Mrs. Bessie Winder gave the police her definition of the "meanest thief." He stole her pocketbook containing some money and her rationing book with Coupon No. 17 good for one pair of shoes still unutilized. She told the chief she had been saving it to buy a new pair of shoes for spring. She said she did not mind the money being stolen, but to have to go without a new pair of shoes was just too much.

MORE ABOUT The Capitol (Continued From Page One) Such a move will give the lawmakers an opportunity to get back home for a well earned rest and a chance to visit the home folks, who do the voting. The freshmen members from the northwest are especially anxious to do a little checking up and fence building with their constituency. The presidential scouts will be looking the field over for convention delegates who can be pledged in advance for their white hopes. The Willkie scouts will be the most active in the far west. It is understood that Ralph Cate, republican national committeeman for Oregon, has been offered the western managership for Willkie, but has declined. The democrats will have no presidential scouts out on the firing line to bother with. Their candidate has already been selected for them, whether they like it or not. The military high command is somewhat concerned over the amount of publicity, celebrations and holiday spirit which is still going on because of the overwhelming allied victory in the Tunisian campaign. The military expected everyone to be more than jubilant over such a victory, just as they were, but they are fearful that too much celebrating will cause those on the home front to think the war is about over, which is far from the truth. Such thoughts harbored by the American people, they fear, will cause a marked slow-down in the many necessary war activities, such as war bond sales, shipbuilding and voluntary enlistments in the army and navy. The governor of Oregon asked for a day of special celebration, but many towns in both Washington and Oregon thought that such a plan would lead to mistaken ideas, and hence no celebrations were held. Here in Washington, D. C., last Monday (the D. C. means darn crowded), Dr. Paul Raver, top hand of the Bonneville project, appeared before the house appropriations sub-committee. The Dr. told the gathering that he was mighty sore at the WPB (war production board) because they held up funds that had been appropriated last year for the purchase of additional generators. WPB had put a stop order on all such construction. Dr. Raver did not ask the sub-committee for any additional funds for the coming year, but urged that the appropriation granted Bonneville last year for installation of additional generators be made available to increase Bonneville transmission facilities. The Dr. said Bonneville and Grand Coulee were now selling better than \$1,000,000 worth of power each month and he expected to increase this amount to at least \$1,750,000 in less than a year from now. By the end of this year, predicted Dr. Raver, the two projects would be producing at least 300,000 kilowatts of power, compared with 86,400 in 1939. Members of the sub-committee quizzed the Dr. at some length on the numerous communications which had been received criticizing the building of both dams. The Bonneville administrator has had a long conference with his chief, Honest Harold Ickes, concerning the stalemated negotiations with the Portland General Electric Co. for the sale of Bonneville power. Raver insisted that part of the P. G. E. system be sold to different PUDs which are operating in P. G. E. territory as a condition for renewal of the wholesale power contract with Bonneville, but the power company said No to this proposal to cut up its property by piecemeal.

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