



Taxpayers of Salem to Pay More This Year

Assessed Valuations \$6 Million Above Last Year—Rate Lower

By DON UPJOHN
Salem property owners are going to have to loosen their purse strings when taxpaying time comes around this fall. Announcement by County Assessor R. Tad Shelton shows that in the Salem city limits the assessed valuation is up \$5,993,512 or an increase this year to \$28,267,738 from \$22,274,226 last year. And the composite levy in the city limits will be down but 1.4 mills dropping from 73.5 mills last year to 72.1 mills this year.

The total taxes covering Salem and its political subdivisions are not yet extended but the signals shown give warning that they are going to be higher due to increased budgets.

City Levy 19.9 Mills
The city levy itself is down from 20.5 mills last year to 19.9 mills this year and the county levy also is down from 17 mills last year to 14.2 mills this year but the school levy is up 2 mills from 36 mills last year to 38 mills this year.

Assessor Shelton says that the heavy increase in assessed valuation over last year, around 25 per cent, reflects a large increase in both real and personal property increases and also the fact that there have been large annexations to the Salem area in the past few years accounts for another sizeable chunk of the increase.

Eugene's Valuation
It may be interesting to note that figures received in the office of Assessor Shelton from the Lane county assessor show that the Eugene assessed valuation for the current year is \$27,173,164, a little over a million dollars less than the Salem valuation while the Eugene city levy is 72 mills, or .1 of a mill less than that of Salem. Other Lane county towns show Florence with a levy of 103.4 mills; Cottage Grove, 75.3; Coburg, 80 and Springfield 59.3 mills.

The other two of the larger towns in Marion county, Silverton and Woodburn, both show increases in valuation while one is up in its levy and the other down.
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Fear Coal Strike Already Begun 400,000 Out

Chances of Averting Nation-wide Steel Walk-out Brighten

Washington, Sept. 17 (AP)—The danger of a nationwide coal strike next week mounted today but hopes brightened for averting a less-imminent steel strike.

The 400,000 coal miners were expected to stay away from the pits next Monday because their welfare fund's trustees, headed by Mine Union President John L. Lewis, voted to suspend pension and other benefit payments.

This action was taken at a stormy, five-hour meeting of the fund's three trustees yesterday. The reason was that the fund was fast running out of money. Many coal operators, because their contracts with Lewis have lapsed, have refused to continue paying their 20-cents-a-ton royalty to the fund.

Spontaneous Stoppage
Lewis, in announcing the cutoff of welfare payments, refrained from any mention of a strike.

But 8,000 miners in Wyoming and Utah already were out of the pits in what union officials called a spontaneous stoppage. Union officials in the west said they had nothing to do with the walkout at all, that the men were protesting the lack of a contract. Operator spokesmen said men heading back into the pits were stopped by union officers. That happened just before Lewis announced the end of welfare payments.

The trustees' meeting was followed by the sudden resignation of the operators' trustee, Ezra Van Horn. He wrote coal owners he wanted to step out right away. In fact, he warned that if they don't name a successor promptly he will go to court to force them to do so.
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McKay Urges Conservation

Barring any serious depression, the wise handling of Oregon's natural resources will enable the state to continue her absorption of thousands of new residents without experiencing economic disruption, Governor Douglas McKay said Saturday in addressing the crowd at the soil conservation field day at the Bartels farm.

Gov. McKay insisted that there was no such thing as a depression mirrored in his crystal ball. In fact, he said, the state's payrolls for 1948 and thus far in 1949 are the greatest in state history and the Oregon labor market of 668,000—as of last month, also was a record-breaker.

McKay said that the latest figures now place Oregon's population increase at 50.4 per cent, which, in numbers, means 549,000 new residents — most from out-of-state — but several tens of thousands brought here.

The continued influx, the governor said, calls for careful planning to avoid a labor surplus. Industrial expansion must keep ahead of population expansion, he added, and any future blueprint must take into consideration the location of new industries so as to avoid over-concentration with its resulting stream pollution and smog.

"Development of hydro-electric energy must spearhead Oregon's growth," the governor said. "But it is important that the state's natural resources must be governed by the long-range outlook, rather than by the expediency of the moment."

Rejuvenation of Land Aim of Conservationists

By CLAUDE STEUSLOFF
When Daniel Waldo, first settler in the hills east of Salem now known as Waldo Hills, plowed his virgin soil to plant wheat in December, 1843, he started a soil breakdown which all the implement company tractors and all the soil conservation men are trying to put back together again in today's big Willamette valley soil conservation field day on the Irvin Bartels farm near Shaw. Bartels' farm joins land of the old Waldo place.

Contour strips and diversion terraces were needless in the fields of two-foot high native grass as Waldo staked his mile square claim on the hills where he came to rid himself of the ague which plagued him in Missouri. "Better to be scalped by the Indians and be done with it than to stay here in Missouri and be shaken to death with the ague," counseled his wife Melinda at the start of the trip across the plains.

During the next quarter century most of the arable land in Waldo Hills felt the stab of the grain farmers' plow. Mrs. Waldo did manage to hold out a small tract of land in its native state for her huckleberry patch which until recently was an undisturbed point of interest near the Bartels house.

For some years the hills grew magnificent crops of grain. Forty bushels per acre yield of wheat and 75 bushels per acre of oats were not uncommon. But continual grain cropping brought declining yields. By 1879 the average yield was only 16.4 bushels, 1889 was a better crop year with an average of 22.9 bushels.

Fruit growing was introduced in 1851 but to this day the Waldo Hills section is devoted largely to grain with a three-year rotation of wheat, oats, and a one year fallow the common routine.

The field day is a concentrated dose of conservation and good farming practices which have been advocated in Marion county by the agricultural adjustment administration (production marketing administration) since 1937 and by the soil conservation service since 1947.
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Seek to Finance Santiam Dike

Immediate completion of a main dike for flood control of the North Santiam was urged by leaders of the movement at a meeting in Jefferson Friday afternoon. The project is being financed by farmers of the affected district.

Dike financing was the principal topic of discussion with the committee deciding to place two additional bulldozers to the three already at work on the eight-foot channel through the island. The equipment was needed if a major portion of the work is to be completed before the rainy season.

The barrier calls for construction strong enough to hold back water backed up three miles into Linn county by the completed dike. It must also carry the river fast enough to prevent washing out around 3,000 acres during flood stage when the North Santiam reaches 24 feet here. The main dike will be 20 feet high and 130 feet through at the base.

Work done on the dike so far will be inspected next week by engineers from Salem, Portland and Albany.

Palfy Admits Budapest Plot

Budapest, Hungary, Sept. 17 (AP)—Lieut. Gen. Gyorgy Palfy, former chief inspector of the Hungarian army, confessed in court today that he and his co-defendants had plotted to assassinate Hungary's top government officials last May.

He said the planned putsch failed because the government arrested Laszlo Rajk, former communist minister of foreign affairs and minister of the interior.

Rajk admitted his guilt on the stand yesterday.

Palfy said the scheme had Yugoslav help, and after the planned assassinations the plotters would have seized the country.

The general, number two defendant in the treason trial here, took the stand and, like Rajk then embarked on a long public confession.

(Six others are scheduled to follow Palfy to the witness box. It appeared certain that they also would follow the established procedure of confession.)

Dismissal of Miller Upheld by State Board

By JAMES D. OLSON
Dismissal of Dr. Horace G. Miller as psychiatrist at the Oregon State hospital by Dr. Charles E. Bates, superintendent, was upheld Saturday by the state civil service commission.

In a letter to Dr. Miller, J. N. Chambers, of Salem, chairman of the commission, said no evidence was submitted at the recent hearing indicating that "your dismissal was made for political, racial or religious reasons nor was your professional competency as a psychiatrist questioned."

The commission stated that in recognition of the years of past experience of Dr. Miller with the state, his request for placement of his name on a state-wide re-employment list, was granted. However, it ruled out that Dr. Miller's re-employment from this list would be subject to the "judgment of any appointing authority to whom your name and other eligibles might be certified."

The commission in its findings said that heads of state departments, including superintendents of state institutions are directly charged with the proper functioning of their organizations.

"This responsibility requires that these officers have discretion within legal limits in the selection and removal of employ-

\$100 Boost in Duty Free Goods

Washington, Sept. 17 (AP)—A \$100 boost in the amount of duty-free goods a U.S. tourist may bring back from abroad has been approved by the senate.

The increase still is subject to action by a senate-house conference committee. A tax bill passed yesterday by the senate was sent to the conference group, Chairman George (D-Ga.) of the senate finance committee said the bill would correct a number of hardships in the present federal tax laws.

The \$200 exemption would replace the \$100 exemption approved by congress in 1897. It would be applicable, as at present, to a resident once every 30 days, provided he remained out of the country at least 48 hours. The exemption would apply only to merchandise for personal or household use, or as souvenirs or curios.

It would be in addition to the law passed by the 80th congress permitting \$300 in duty-free goods for U.S. residents, provided they remain out of the country 12 consecutive days. This exemption may be used only once every six months.

Burglar Killed in Portland Tavern

Portland, Ore., Sept. 17 (AP)—Athanasios A. Montis, 21-year-old son of a Portland tavern owner, today killed a burglar who attempted to break into his father's beer parlor.

Ellis Ruben Garrison, 37, an ex-convict, died at Providence hospital two hours after Montis shot him with a .32 automatic.

Montis said the tavern had been burglarized twice, and that he had been sleeping in the rear room in the hope of trapping the prowler.

When Garrison broke into the tavern early today with a bag of burglary tools, Montis commanded him to "hold it!" Montis, believing that Garrison held a gun in his hand, shot him through the lung.

Garrison served several penitentiary sentences in Virginia and Nebraska and was convicted of burglary in Multnomah county in 1940.

Excursion Steamer Noronic Burns with 226 Death Toll

Atlantic Pact Powers Agree Upon Defenses

Washington, Sept. 17 (AP)—The North Atlantic pact council today set up a 12-nation defense committee and instructed it to draw up immediately unified defense plans for the North Atlantic area.

A 2600-word communique blueprinting the broad outlines upon which the defense committee will work was issued after a one-hour conference of the council of ministers—the first meeting of the council.

The defense committee will be composed of defense ministers of each of the pact nations. It will meet once a year unless emergencies dictate more frequent meetings.

The first meeting will be held here Oct. 5.

Military Committee
The council directed the defense committee to establish a military committee composed of chiefs of staff of the 12 pact nations.

It also directed that five regional planning groups be established to lay out a defense plan on a geographic basis.

The planning bodies will be divided as follows:

North European — Denmark, Norway, and the United Kingdom. The U. S. agreed to participate in this group's defense planning "as appropriate."
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Wallace P. Carson
Carson Named Oregon State Bar President

Gresham, Sept. 17 (AP)—Wallace P. Carson, Salem, was elected president of the Oregon State Bar today.

Wilbur P. Riddiesberger, Eugene, was elected vice-president; Lee Karr, Portland, secretary; and Roy F. Shields, Portland, treasurer.

A circuit judge told the Oregon State Bar today that judges are making too many mistakes.

Circuit Judge James W. Crawford of Portland said he was "shocked" at the number of lower court trials which, because of error, have been reversed by the state supreme court.

Multnomah county, in which Crawford himself serves, is just as bad as the other counties, he said. He said he thought judges in that county handle too many cases. "Accuracy flies out the window when you try to go too fast."

Crawford proposed a school for trial judges, where they could study errors in past cases and means to prevent them.

Middle-night Flash Fire at Toronto Pier

Toronto, Sept. 17 (AP)—A middle-of-the-night fire roared through the Great Lakes cruiser Noronic at her pier and by noon today, police said, 190 bodies had been removed from the wreckage.

In addition they said three persons died in hospitals and four were recovered from the water, making a known death toll up to at least 197. Toronto hospitals and first aid stations at two hotels counted 189 injured, 169 of them seriously. Investigating officials at the scene of the Great Lakes worst disaster in a century said they thought the number of dead might mount as high as 226.

Most Passengers Aleep
The fire, which raced through the 36-year-old vessel, broke out while most of those aboard were sleeping. Operating officials put the number aboard at 512 passengers and 170 crew members. The 6,905-ton Noronic tied up at her pier in downtown Toronto last night with holiday trippers bound from Detroit and Cleveland for the Thousand Islands. It was to be her last cruise of the season.

Hundreds of passengers escaped in a frantic, screaming, pushing mob, after they were awakened by alarms and cries of "fire." Some leaped to the pier, some to other vessels, some into the water. Others were trapped and their unaccounted bodies were still believed to be huddled in the submerged C-deck. The death toll rose as firemen kept bringing up the charred, broken bodies of the victims.

Cashmere Fruit Plant Burned

Cashmere, Wash., Sept. 17 (AP)—A fast-spreading fire destroyed the huge plant of the Cashmere fruit growers union here today, with loss estimated at nearly \$1,000,000 in buildings, equipment and fruit.

The blaze flared suddenly from an unexplained cause at 4 a.m. just as a watchman was making his rounds. It started in the middle of the warehouse and spread both ways down the block-long structure, fed by dry material for fruit boxes and oiled packing paper.

By 10 a.m. the fire was dying, but had destroyed all the plant including a new cold storage unit built at the west end three years ago.

Mrs. Jean Barnes, secretary-treasurer, estimated loss to buildings and equipment at \$750,000. Also lost were 75,000 boxes of d'Anjou pears and 35 carloads of Bartlett pears for canneries, with total value placed at about \$200,000. Insurance covered both plant and fruit, which was owned by individual growers and stored in the plant awaiting delivery.

The fruit was being handled for growers by Gwin, White & Prince, Inc., distributing company. Noel Bakke, the company's sales manager at Seattle, said the plant loss would be a serious handicap to handling of the apple crop.

Mrs. Barnes said the growers union, organized in 1907, was one of the oldest cooperatives in Washington state.

Richard Dix in Hospital
Hollywood, Sept. 17 (AP)—Richard Dix, 54, former film star, remains "in grave condition," his physician said today. Dix suffered a heart attack August 19 and probably will be hospitalized several weeks.

Search On for Azores Plane

New York, Sept. 17 (AP)—Coast guard, air force and Canadian aircraft were thrown into a widespread hunt today for a small, single-engine plane long overdue on a projected 2,000-mile non-stop flight from the Azores to New York City.

The little plane, a Beechcraft Bonanza, reportedly was loaded with fuel for 29 hours of flying when it took off with two Italian aviators from the Azores yesterday. Under normal conditions, its gas supply would have been exhausted at 19 a.m. (EST) today.

The search planes started from American and Canadian bases shortly after dawn, about 10 hours after the plane last made radio contact with shore.

At that time, the fliers, John M. Brondello and Camillo Baroglio, gave their position as about 940 miles east of New York City and 180 miles due south of the naval base at Argentina, Nfld.

The missing aircraft's radio apparently went dead after that report.

Their flight was to help win American financial support for a proposed "Boys Town" in Italy.

Belgian Ship On Cuban Rocks

Miami, Fla., Sept. 17 (AP)—Rescue crews were rushing today to aid the 2,500-ton Belgian freighter Brabant grounded on rocks off the southern coast of Cuba.

An SOS signal was picked up from the vessel shortly after 1 p.m. (EST). Ships at sea were alerted and the coast guard in Miami stood by ready to send help if needed.

Coast guard air sea rescue headquarters said the Brabant's master reported the vessel was "taking on a little water but was in no immediate danger."

The commercial tug "Rescue" was dispatched from Kingston, Jamaica.

The vessel was reported to have been en route from gulf coast ports to Antwerp. No estimate of the number of men aboard was available.

Another Storm Headed for Oregon

Portland, Sept. 17 (AP)—Another storm was bearing inland on Oregon today, and the weather bureau hoisted storm warnings along the coast.

The westerman forecast winds up to 45 miles an hour along the Oregon coast, and said even Portland would feel the heavy gusts by late tonight.

The coastal town of Astoria had just recovered from a storm: The most severe electrical manifestation ever to strike there. Lightning early yesterday plowed up the front yard of Clatsop county 4-H Agent Dale Hoecker, and burned the porch of Harold Rathburn's home.

Luckily, the woods were so wet that no forest fires were started by the bolts.

Water Again Flows In Old Mill Race

Eugene, Sept. 17 (AP)—Water is again flowing in this city's historic old millrace. In a special ceremony witnessed by a crowd of over 1000 people, Mayor V. Edwin Johnson turned valves that allowed water to flow into the channel for the first time since 1945.

The canal was broken by Willamette River flood waters early in 1945, and the return of water to the millrace is the result of a spirited campaign among the citizens of the community for donations towards the reconstruction costs.



Construction Starts On North Marion Union High School—Structure 212 by 212 feet containing seven class rooms, gym, domestic arts department and a cafeteria in the basement started by Kuhr & Sons, Portland builders, three miles northwest of Hubbard. Glass brick will feature classroom sidewalk construction. Completion date will be about April 15, 1950.