

**Eastern Clackamas News**  
(Formerly Estacada Progress)

Published every Thursday at  
Estacada, Oregon  
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Entered at the postoffice in Estacada,  
Oregon, as second-class mail.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
One year \$1.00  
Six months .50

Thursday, July 13, 1916

Clackamas County now has a new toy and one which may possibly prove an expensive one to the taxpayers of the county and at least to the taxpayers of this distant section from the county seat.

A few months ago, the county purchased a hardsurfacing plant for \$800., which probably was a bargain. Since the purchase of this plant, the county court, county engineer and road boss seem to have gotten a bad attack of hard surface paving disease, with the majority of their energies being expended in building pavements in the vicinity of the county seat.

The first job, namely the paving of the highway between Park-place and Oregon City is completed and seems to be a first class piece of work and undoubtedly cost a large sum of money. Now the announcement is made that the plant has been moved to a spot near the Clackamas-Multnomah line, where a couple of months work is mapped out.

The announcement states that the county has mapped out two months of steady work on roads leading into this county from Portland, with the Milwaukie-Sellwood road being the present job to be covered with a five inch surface of asphaltic concrete.

It looks as though the announcement should have read that a couple of months steady work was mapped out on roads leading to, from, out of, and surrounding Oregon City.

The Milwaukie-Sellwood road is merely a section in the Portland-Oregon City route and incidentally the name sounds as though it might be the stretch of highway that the county within a year or so squandered a lot of the taxpayers' money on hardsurfacing or some disastrous style of paving.

The News has no kick against hardsurfacing, although it does feel that this county cannot afford much of such luxuries and it does believe in calling a halt, if all of the hardsurfacing is going to be done in the lower end of the county. To date all of it has been done in the immediate vicinity of Oregon City, and in the paving of roads that are serving others than the farmers primarily.

Unless a halt is called by the

taxpayers, the \$800. paving plant will be an expensive luxury and will be worked to death along with the taxpayers' pocket books.

It is possible that Clackamas County could afford two or three main highway arteries, running through the county from several directions, but it can't afford miles of hardsurfacing in one end of the county and on highways travelled largely by autoists from Portland and other points.

If a fair equitable division of roads could be agreed upon, it is possible that the rural taxpayers' would consent to some kind of a bond issue, to pay for hardsurfacing a certain number of main trunk highways.

There is one strong argument in favor of bonding, that is to allow future generations to pay their share of road building improvements and not cast the burden of the expense on the present generation entirely.

The average taxpayer, in this part of the county at least, is in agricultural pursuits and is having a sufficiently hard row to hoe in making a good living and keeping away the mortgages, without having to contribute towards hardsurfaced roads in a part of the county which he or she seldom travels.

The average local taxpayer is standing a heavy expense in the clearing of his land and getting it into cultivation, and the next generation, who will inherit that land in its improved condition, should stand their share of the big expense of building permanent highways.

The Estacada City Council has been asked whether any attempt was being made to collect dog licenses this year. To date the attempt on the part of the marshal has been a rather fruitless one, but neither he nor the council have given up the matter.

While the city undoubtedly has plenty of need for more money, such as would result from the licenses, the enforcement of the law is necessary in order to rid the town of a number of worthless dogs, being animals that originally had an owner, but now are town property, living on the town's tolerance and its garbage pails.

With the danger of hydrophobia always current during hot weather, it is best that the stray dogs be killed and the others kept off the streets. If an owner's amount of sentiment for his pup is not sufficient to pay the dog tax, the dog had better be done away with.



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