

Assessor Beyers Replies To Critics Of Valuations

(Continued from Page One)

tainly want to try the experiment of raising valuations in the community where I live and own several pieces of property.

I feel that I passed the experimental stage many years ago, in fact, back in 1918, when the first appraisal was made, and we had about 400 applications before the Board of Equalization, and worked until midnight several nights in order to get the work completed on time.

The assessed valuation placed on all property in Coquille was made by a board of appraisers in 1918, and has remained at that value except for a shift in values on Front Street to Second Street, and a small increase in the North End, both changes being made several years ago. In 1918 only a small part of the town had paved streets or sewers. No value was added to property on account of street and sewer improvements. The reason valuations were not increased was to give the owners an opportunity to pay for these improvements before an increase in valuation, which was a period of ten years. When the ten year period was up, it was my intention to increase the valuation of all property abutting on paved streets. But in 1928, which was the end of the ten year period, we were occupied with making a cruise of all timber in Coos county, which took a good part of three years, (and, by the way, that cruise was placed on the tax roll as fast as it was made without waiting until it was all complete). The depression came on immediately following, and nothing was ever done to Coquille valuations until this year, due to the fact that I could not find the time to do the work myself, and could not get funds appropriated in the county budget to have the work done until in 1939, and could not get the appraisers until late in that year. We did succeed in getting the state appraiser to appraise all the industries in the county in the forepart of that year.

As a comparison of values between Coquille, Marshfield and North Bend, we will take the main business corners and best residence districts in

each town, all lots 50 by 100 feet: Coquille best business corners, assessed values, \$3670.00. Marshfield best business corners, assessed values, \$11,520.00. North Bend best business corners, assessed values, \$4,460.00. Coquille best residence district corner lots, \$290.00; inside lots, \$255.00. Marshfield best residence district corner lots, \$695.00; inside lots, \$375.00. North Bend best residence district corner lots, \$290.00 to \$320.00; inside lots, \$255.00.

(There are quite a number of residence lots on Sherman Avenue that are assessed higher than the amount quoted above).

I have had the agents for loan companies and others criticize the assessed values of Coquille residence lots as being low compared with the other towns.

I believe that any one who owns property here will admit that property is more valuable now than before the Smith Wood-Products plant was built, although since your streets were paved and sewers laid, no increase has ever been made on that account.

I cannot say that I am satisfied with the appraised values. I have just discovered several instances where I think they erred in their judgment.

Not all property was increased, by any means. There were a lot of reductions that I do not approve of also. Nearly all of the property that lies north of the south bank of the gulch that runs east and west through Coquille which is not on improved streets has been reduced.

Now there is no intention on my part of making a guinea pig, a goat, or a long-eared jack-ass of Coquille. I live here and my interests are here. I will receive my share of this increase. I candidly believe that Coquille is entitled to some increase in assessed value, even before the other town are appraised, just as the county timber cruise was put on the roll as made, (it took two years), and the land classification was put on as it was made (it took five years).

I am perfectly willing to leave this matter of not putting this new appraisal on the tax roll, until all the other towns are appraised, up to the Board of Equalization which meets August 12, 1940. It is my intention to have the other towns appraised as soon as the funds can be provided in the county budget and

the work can be done by the State Tax Commission appraisers.

Some might ask why the assessor does not make the appraisal himself. There are approximately 85,000 assessments in this county. It is not possible for one man personally to check all of these assessments and at the same time take care of the correspondence, wait on the public that calls at the office for all kinds of information, listen to their troubles, and do the best he can to soothe their wounded feelings. There are very few persons whose valuations have been increased that I do not hear from. They want to know why, and I do not blame them. Taxes are a great deal like war: War is

Faithfully yours,
J. P. Beyers, Assessor.



At least 20,000 people will want to attend the ceremonies at which Oregon's favorite son candidate, United States Senator Chas. L. McNary is to be formally advised that he has been selected as running mate to republican presidential nominee Wendell L. Willkie, in the opinion of Governor Chas. A. Sprague who has been working with national committee man Ralph Cake of Portland in arranging for the notification ceremonies.

Because McNary refused to sacrifice his young filbert orchard in order to make room for the anticipated crowd the ceremonies will be held at the state fair grounds on the afternoon of August 28 with Governor Stassen of Minnesota delivering the formal notification.

The huge grand stand at the fair grounds with seating capacity for 6000 persons will be augmented by the construction of temporary bleachers but at that it is expected that thousands will be compelled to stand through the ceremonies which will be brief and run on a strict schedule to conform to radio requirements, inasmuch as the ceremony will be broadcast on a coast-to-coast hook-up.

Members of the state board of control have given their consent to the

participation of the state prison baseball team in a game to be played at Waters Field in Salem for the benefit of the Red Cross. It will be the first time in more than 20 years that a prison team has participated in a game outside of its own backyard within the prison wall. This game, Governor Sprague said, is to be regarded as a precedent for other outside appearances of the team.

In order to avoid an eleventh-hour rush of motorists for examination when the new law requiring a test every four years becomes effective, Secretary of State Snell is urging drivers to take the examination as soon as convenient. Under an act of the last legislative session no driver may have his license renewed after July 1, 1943, unless he has successfully passed the requisite examination within the past four years.

The fiscal year ending June 30, last, was the brightest in Oregon's history from an industrial standpoint, according to records of the State Industrial Accident commission. Payrolls of industries under the protection of the workmen's compensation act, for this 12-month period aggregated \$164,167,340, an increase of 7.09 per cent over the record for 1938-39. Reports compiled by the commission reveal the employment of an average of 120,120 men in Oregon industries during 1939-40, an increase of 6809 over the previous fiscal year.

Governor Sprague and Secretary of State Snell cut a melon at the state capitol one day last week. It was a big, juicy, 50-pound specimen presented to the state officials by members of the Mississippi delegation whose members visited Salem on a tour of the west.

At the request of the state board of control the United States public health service, with headquarters in Washington, D. C., will make a survey of Oregon's institutions for the care of the mentally deficient. A report on the findings of the survey, which will cover the two insane hospitals and the institution for feeble minded, will be filed with Governor Sprague prior to the convening of the next legislature.

Defense of the experience rating and seasonability provisions in Ore-

gon's unemployment compensation act by Ralph H. Campbell, attorney for the unemployment compensation commission, has brought sharp criticism from labor leaders who seek the elimination of these provisions.

Campbell's statements in support of the experience rating and seasonality provisions were made during discussions of the unemployment compensation act at forums conducted in several Oregon cities last week by the Associated Employers of Oregon, an organization which D. E. Nickerson, executive secretary of the State Federation of Labor, declares to be inimical to labor.

In a public statement Nickerson charged that the commission's attorney was catering to the employer group in his defense of the measure which labor seeks to amend. In a letter to Nickerson following his protest against Campbell's statements C. N. Ryerson, labor representative on the commission, declared that Campbell exceeded his authority and was not speaking for the commission, in making the statements to which labor took exception.

The state library loaned a total of 454,603 volumes during the two years ending June 30, last, according to the biennial report of Miss Harriett C. Long, state librarian. More than 25,000 borrowers were served directly by mail, with 170,614 volumes going to schools and 88,098 volumes being loaned to public libraries throughout the state. Isolated communities throughout the state were served with reading material through the facilities of 917 travelling libraries, the report shows.

Governor Sprague wants the 1941-42 state budget to be "something more than a mere collection of statistics." In letters addressed to all department and institution heads the governor has asked that their budget requests be accompanied by a "program of operation" to back up their requests for state funds.

Objection to the transfers of the Oregon archives from Portland to Salem was voiced by Lewis A. McArthur, president, and Nellie B. Pipes, librarian of the Oregon Historical Society, before the State Board of Control this week. These records, the Historical Society officials claim are now more readily accessible to a greater number of persons than they

would be if returned to Salem. The archives, which consist of all state documents dealing with the provisional and territorial government were turned over to the Historical Society for safe keeping by the legislative session of 1931 until such time as adequate vaults could be provided for them in some building in the capitol group in Salem. Board of control members who feel that this requirement has now been met, both in the new capitol and the new library building, recently suggested the return of the records to the capitol city.

In spite of the fact that registration of non-resident motorists was down 14 per cent during June, gasoline consumption in Oregon last month broke all records according to Secretary of State Snell. June gasoline consumption as reported to the state department by state distributors, aggregated 26,145,739 gallons, an increase of 3,065,533 gallons over June, 1939. Gasoline consumption for the first six months of this year was 10 per cent above that for the first half of 1939, Snell said.

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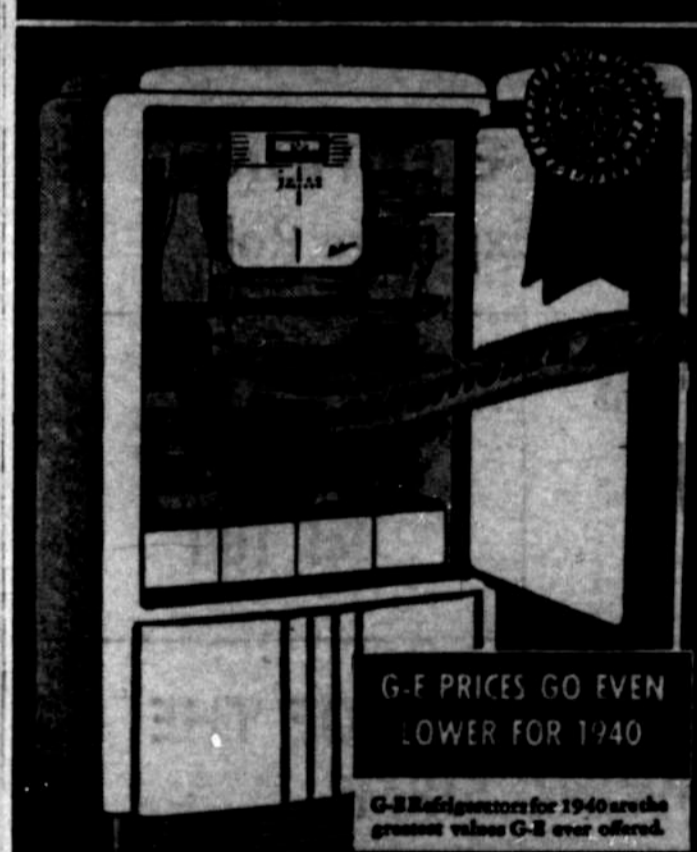
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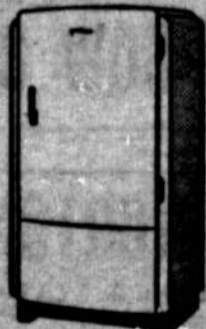
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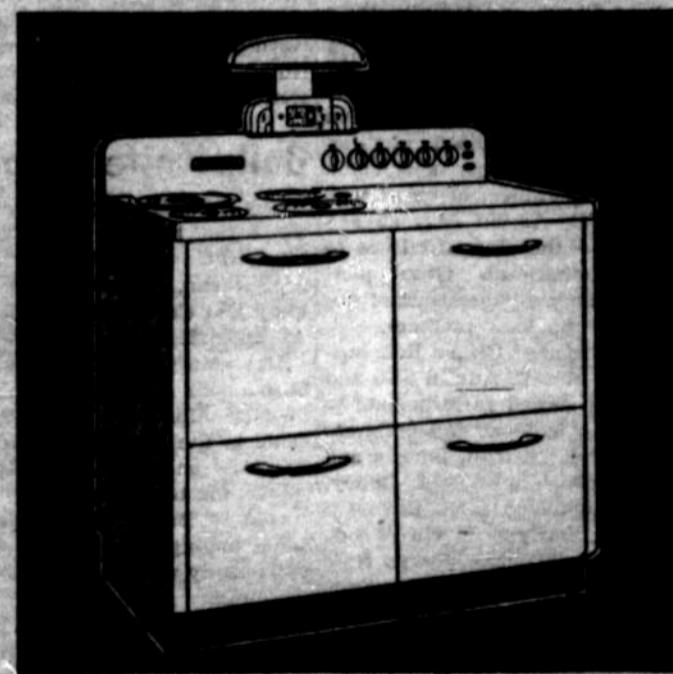
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