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COQUILLE, COOS COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1943.

25.00 THE YEAR

## Frank Statement Of County Policy In Tax Matters

(By L. D. Felsheim, County Judge)  
Probably the most important and far-reaching undertaking in official county business in a number of years is the present program of reorganization and modernization of the tax department. This is being done under the authority of Sheriff Wm. F. Howell in coordination with the assessor's department and the County Court, and satisfactory progress is being made.

Taxpayers of Coos county, at least those who have been paying, or attempting to pay, their taxes with any degree of regularity, are well aware of the difficulty they have faced in recent years when endeavoring to determine what they actually owe and how and when they might pay to get the greatest possible benefit under current tax laws.

This statement is not made as a reflection on any person or persons connected with the tax department. No such reflection is intended, nor is it justified, because the situation is more or less the outgrowth of a combination of circumstances brought about by the ever-changing tax laws enacted by succeeding legislatures in attempting to meet the problems that arose during the depression years of the early '30s.

So many different ways to pay taxes were devised and put into effect by legislation that the administrative machinery and the personnel of the tax department, under the old system in operation, was inadequate to cope with the situation. It took trained employees of several years standing to keep advised of the changes taking place, and to maintain coordination between the various methods of tax payment. Such employees could not always be held; in fact, there were numerous changes in personnel over a period of critical years, and at times the department was considerably under-manned. The cry for "economy" at that time when people couldn't pay their taxes and everyone thought expenses should be cut to the limit, proved detrimental to the tax department because it struck at a time when there was more work than ever to do.

As a result of the circumstances explained in the foregoing, the actual

(Continued on page two)

## Personal Mention

J. E. Norton, who had not been at all well this week, is feeling somewhat better this morning but still has to remain very quiet and make no exertion.

Mrs. Hale B. Eubanks is expecting Capt. Eubanks home for a short visit this evening, or soon. The boat on which he is chaplain in transport service is docked at San Francisco for a few days and he wrote he expected to have a few days' furlough.

Lud Scharfer went up to Myrtle Point yesterday morning and brought home from the Mast Hospital, Mrs. Scharfer and that new baby daughter, Barbara Elaine.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Thrift left Sunday on a two weeks' vacation trip, he from duty with the Mt. States Power Co. and she from the Lorenz Department Store. They went to Long Beach to visit Tom Thrift and family.

Joe Fortier, youngest brother of W. H. Fortier, accompanied by his wife came in Monday from Eugene for a few days' visit. They are out at Verrill McCurdy's where the Fortiers have been staying the past few weeks and the men were busy Tuesday helping Verrill shingle his barn.

The Eagles Auxiliary will initiate a class Friday evening and it is important that everyone who can attend do so. All of the birthdays which fall in August will be celebrated.

Mrs. Marion R. Clayton and two sons, John and Paul, left last Friday evening for Peoria, Ill., where her father, Wm. Miles, is quite seriously ill following an operation. He was a Coquille visitor three years ago.

Mrs. Joyce Owen and son, Richard, left yesterday morning for Corvallis, where Mrs. Owen is to teach the fourth grade the coming school year.

## Most Successful Air Raid Practice

One of the most successful air raid practices ever held in Coquille was staged last Thursday by the Civilian Defense Council. This practice differed from the usual plan in that instead of being called at the customary time of 7:30 p. m., it was called at 9:10 p. m., with none of the members of the participating units having any advance information as to the time.

The yellow alarm, upon which the telephone operators call all chiefs of service to stand by in case of need, came at 8:45. The blue alarm by which all chiefs of service call their respective crews into headquarters, was sounded at 9 p. m., and the red alarm which indicates actual bombing and is indicated by three blasts of the city siren, was sounded at 9:10. All control board workers incident officers, fire police, ambulance and messenger crews were on duty by the time the red alarm sounded and six incidents at five-minute intervals, beginning at 9:15 p. m., were handled in a nearly perfect manner.

It is hoped to hold future practices in this manner providing it is possible to obtain permission from army officials to do so.

Chief Bill Barrow was highly pleased at the showing made in last week's practice and wishes to express his appreciation to all block wardens, district wardens, central headquarters workers and telephone operators who took part in it.

## Letter From The Sunny South

A letter from Mr. and Mrs. Jack Laird, she was Gretchen Clinton before her marriage, written from Pensacola, Florida, has many items of interest to their friends here:

"The South has lived up to many of our expectations, but I know nothing can compare with Coos county in our estimation. It's beautiful down here, but after being raised in a mild climate we get awfully uncomfortable. And I can understand why the Southerners are called 'lazy'—if you moved too fast in this climate you would just melt away.

"We get quite a kick out of seeing cotton, tobacco, peanuts, sugar cane, etc., growing. But as to Florida oranges—the only decent ones we get down here have 'California' stamped on them.

"Jack is kept quite busy instructing but he says it is an interesting job. We expect to be here until next spring but you never know just what the Navy will decide.

"I must say how much the Sentinel means to us, now we're so far from home. Tony and Frances Estes pass the current issues on to us and my mother sends us copies, too. We read it from cover to cover."

## Concert, Dance By Army Band at Brandon, Aug. 27

A free, public concert and dance, the music to be furnished by the U. S. Army band, is advertised to be held in the grade school gymnasium at Brandon tomorrow (Friday) evening. The concert will start at 7:30 and the dance will follow.

Anyone who can get there is invited to attend. There will be no charge for either concert or dance.

## Good Shipment of Chrome From the Independence Mine

A fine shipment of chrome which tested 46.7 per cent was received at the government stockpile here this week from Frank Fish's Coos Independence Mine. Stanley Fitzgerald reports.

## First Circus To Show In Coquille For Many Years

The advance agent for Arthur Brothers' big three-ring circus was in Coquille last Saturday and stated that the circus would show in Coquille on Tuesday, Sept. 14, with an afternoon and evening performance.

Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Harriman returned Tuesday afternoon from their six weeks stay in Portland. Mr. Harriman says he is feeling very fit again although still a little shaky on his legs. He spent five of the six weeks flat on his back in the hospital.

Postmaster M. O. Hawkins is taking a week off from duty in the post-office here and last Saturday he and Mrs. Hawkins went down to Curry county to spend the time with their daughters, Mrs. Tom Dimmick and Miss Ann.

## \$400 Now In Fund For The Boys And Girls Clubs

There was a splendid attendance at the dance last Saturday night, in the Community Building, which enjoyed until an early morning hour the music of Shady's orchestra.

The dance netted \$200 or the Coquille Youth Advisory committee and the funds will be used for purchasing equipment for the Girls Club and the Boys Club which are being organized and which will have their headquarters in the Community Building.

Gene Johnson with a sale of 33 tickets is to receive the No. 1 membership card in the Boys Club and George Litzenberger receives the No. 2 card, he having sold 32 tickets. Others who participated in the ticket selling campaign were Raymond Kay, Robert Simpson, Vernon Owen, Dick Martindale, Art Kelch, Neal Milligan, Donald Minard, Jack Axtell, George Johnson, Bob Dykes, Bill Berry, Pete Ireland.

The Youth Advisory Council, which now has about \$400 to spend for getting the two clubs started with a good assortment of games and equipment, is composed of representatives from the various adult clubs, churches, and other organizations in Coquille. The executive committee is composed of Mrs. Jack Dolan, chairman; Rev. Robert L. Greene, O. L. Wood, R. L. Stewart and Clarence Osika.

Mrs. Mabel Whereat has donated a ping pong table for the club's use, W. H. Fortier has loaned the use of a billiard table, and other equipment will be gratefully received by the committee.

## "So Is The Enemy Far Away"

Our Treasury Department is preparing for the greatest financing effort in history, the Third War Loan. In order to raise the greatest sum of money yet raised from individuals in this country, obviously every person will have to do more.

It is a project that calls for careful self-analysis and planning. Occasionally it is pointed out to us that our per capita purchase of war bonds does not nearly approximate that in England, and is far below that in Germany. England has had the necessity of such purchases driven home by the actual devastation of enemy bombs and by nearness to the entire war scene.

The recently publicized phrase from an American soldier's letter is worth repeating. He wrote to his family that "I am still far away, but remember, as long as I am far away, so is the enemy."

One way for us to keep the enemy far away, one way for us to keep our right to determine for ourselves what our bond purchases shall be is to voluntarily, willingly, gladly do our full share when the call comes.

## No Summer This Year

Speaking of weather—These mornings have a decided feel of fall! And there has been no summer at all in Coos county. The thermometer has not been higher than 80 the past three months.

Occasional rains, too, have tended to reduce the fire hazard and Oregon has been kept green. But the precipitation has been spotted. Last Saturday was cloudy and gloomy all day but the few minutes rain between two and three o'clock was all that fell here, yet 100 miles to the north rain fell on the coast all day long.

## The Geo. Swinney Family Here For A Few Days

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Swinney and son, Raymond, came in Saturday from Eagle Point, where they have resided for the past year, and they left again for there yesterday morning. George has been a guard at Camp White for the past year and while he is not a drafted nor enlisted man, he wears the uniform and is subject to all Army rules and regulations while on duty.

He mentioned some of the high prices prevailing around Medford, cherries selling for 15 cents a pound and green beans at 11 or 12 cents. A ranch of ten acres belonging to a relative of his recently sold for \$750 an acre.

## County Fair To Open At Myrtle Point September 4

The 32d annual Coos County Fair, which will open on Saturday of next week, Sept. 4, is to be a three day affair this year, continuing through Labor Day, Sept. 6, but there will be as much activity crammed into those three days as there has been heretofore in a week.

Friday, the 3rd, is Entry Day for general exhibits, Victory Garden and Food Conservation displays, and elsewhere in this issue appears a coupon which those planning on entering exhibits are requested to fill out and mail prior to Sept. 3.

The general exhibits premium list is the same as was shown in the 1941 booklet.

A Rodeo is to be one of the big attractions this year. Christiansen Bros. of Eugene are bringing in the stock, after a two weeks' successful show at Jantzen Beach. The stock includes Brahma bulls, cows and calves and this will be the first time and Brahma stock has been shown in Coos county. The Rodeo will be an open show with all local riders invited to participate.

Another feature is to be the local saddle horse show, all three afternoons, with lady and men saddle horse races and contests, similar to the great show at the ball park here on July 4. Smith who arranged that show here is chairman in charge of the fair program for the local horse exhibitions and contests.

Night watchmen, stalls and feed for the horses will be provided by the fair association.

An additional 300 feet of bleachers seats has been provided and the grandstand and bleachers will seat between four and five thousand. There is also ample free parking space for cars on the infield.

The Browning Consolidated Carnival is also billed to add to the attractions of the fair and there will not be a single dull moment during the three days.

Bob Zumwalt's seven-piece orchestra is to furnish the music for the dancing in Oaks Pavilion each of the three nights and that assures that the crowds will enjoy the dancing.

Admission is to be 99 cents for adults, including tax; 40 cents for the 12 to 18 year old young folks and children under 12 are admitted free. Among the eating concessions will be one provided by the Coquille Eagles lodge and Auxiliary.

## Rotarians Hold Song Session

A portion of the program time at the weekly luncheon meeting of the Rotary club at the hotel on Wednesday was taken up by reports on the annual stag dinner held last Friday evening at the J. Arthur Berg cabin at Laurel lake, some of which were quite interesting.

The balance of the time was taken over by Rev. Robert O. Greene, who led a song session.

A challenge was received from the Eagles for a softball game and a committee was appointed to arrange a date for the latter part of next week.

O. B. Harriman was welcomed back to the club after an absence of several weeks in a Portland hospital.

John Jayes was introduced as a new member, having been elected at last week's meeting. Visiting Rotarians present were Harry Nasburg, of Marshfield, John E. Runyon, of Roseburg, and John D. Carl and Wallace Dement, of Myrtle Point.

## "Unavoidable," Was The Inquest Verdict

Coroner W. O. Campbell, District Attorney Ben Flaxel and Dr. J. D. Rankin, who conducted the inquest last Friday over the body of Mrs. C. V. Smith, who was killed when the Coquille mail truck was overturned last Wednesday afternoon, rendered a verdict that the accident was "unavoidable" and that there was no criminal negligence on the part of Gerald Lillie, who was driving the logging truck.

Ray Jeub last Thursday purchased the F. S. Emery home on East Second. Mr. Emery expects to leave early next week to enter upon his duties as manager of the pine mill at Elgin in eastern Oregon and Mrs. Emery will join him there within a month.

## Coos Valuation Up \$480,000 This Year

The taxpayers of Coos county will be pleased to know that although the Coos county budget estimate, as advertised for the final hearing on August 27, and for the 1943-44 fiscal year, is only slightly higher, \$23.66 to be exact, than the previous year's tax levy, the levy itself will show approximately a three-tenths of a mill reduction. The actual millage dropping from 15 mills to 14.73. This is due to the fact the assessed valuation of the county was greatly increased—according to figures just compiled in the office of Assessor Charles W. Forrest.

The assessed value of the county for the 1943-44 tax year, just compiled, shows an assessed value of \$26,794,087 or a net increase of \$480,461 over the previous year's assessed valuation. The records also show a net increase in assessed valuation in Coos county for the past three years of \$2,131,299.00.

The assessor states "although there has been some criticism of the slight increase in the expenditures of this office in the past three years—the above figures are ample proof that that money has been well spent, with the taxpayers each year receiving the benefits in a more equalized assessment and a lower tax levy."

A large portion of the above increase in assessed value is attributed to the assessment of property which had not previously been on the tax rolls due to lack of sufficient field help.

In the year 1940 the assessed valuation of the county was \$24,662,788.00 with the county levy being 21.9 mills as compared with today's assessed valuation of \$26,794,087.00 and a levy of 14.73 mills.

The assessor states, according to law, it will be necessary for his office to increase the levy to the nearest tenth of a mill over the requested amount to be raised by taxation. However, should the county Budget Committee in its final hearing on Aug. 27, reduce the requested amount to be raised by taxation by \$803.82, the levy would then be exactly 14.73 mills.

## Daughter And Family Visiting At The F. A. Pook Home

Capt. and Mrs. R. F. Roake and children, Judy and Peter, arrived here last Friday for a visit at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Pook. Capt. Roake was on furlough but on Saturday received word to go on a special mission to Idaho, with only 15 minutes in which to catch the bus. When that job is completed he will be back here for the rest of his furlough. Mrs. Roake and the children are here for an indefinite stay. After leaving his post in California the Roakes visited his parents in Portland before coming to Coquille.

## Self-Confessed Murderer Is Taken Back To Iowa

Russell Garris, who has been in the county jail since Aug. 14 after he had confessed to police officers at the Bay that he had committed a murder in Iowa, back in the 1930's, was taken from jail yesterday morning and started back to the Buckeye state with officers who came west for him.

A peculiar matter in connection with his confession is that the officers set the date of the murder about ten years prior to what Garris stated in his confession which he said was induced by remorse.

## Eastern Coal Man Visits Coos County Coal Regions

(By L. D. Felsheim, County Judge)  
Prospects for successful development of various coal areas in Coos county through strip mining, were enhanced materially during the past week by the visit here of K. G. Spencer, president of the Pittsburgh Midway Coal Mining company of Kansas City, Mo.

After visiting several areas where the Coos county coal exploration crew, under direction of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, has been boring test holes, Spencer, accompanied by Earl K. Nixon, director of the state department, visited the County Court Friday. They were accompanied by J. K. Kernson and J. B. Isgrig, mining men of Grants Pass, and by a representative of the War Production Board, Portland office, in charge of priorities.

Spencer stated that he had read about the Coos county exploration project in one of the mining journals and, while on a business trip to Wyoming, decided to fly to Oregon and look over the Coos county field. His company has been strip-mining coal throughout certain areas of the Middle West, including the states of Kansas, Missouri and Illinois.

Spencer was much interested in what has already been revealed through the cooperative exploration work and complimented the people of Coos county upon their progressiveness in inaugurating such a movement. While in no position to comment on his findings here, he did say that he was intensely interested in seeing strip-mining areas of considerable size where comparatively large veins of coal can be reached by the removal of comparatively shallow overburden. In contrast, he mentioned that his company has stripped as much as 57 feet of overburden successfully to reach a 22-inch vein of coal.

Director Nixon is giving a great deal of personal attention to the local exploration project, and more particularly at this time to the strip-mining areas because machinery for open pit surface mining is becoming more rapidly available as various large government military projects are being completed. Strip mining requires a minimum of manpower and lends itself to production in the shortest possible time.

## Phyllis Bunch To Take Three Year Nurse's Training Course

Miss Phyllis Bunch left Saturday for southern California, where she is to enter Loma Linda, a college of Medical Evangelists and Nurses' training, for a three-year course. The college is 65 miles east of Los Angeles and the course will include practical work in the hospitals of L. A. Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Bunch took her out to Eugene last Saturday and she took the train from there, they returning home Sunday.

## Is Helping Guard Italian Prisoners at Ogden, Utah

Victor Farris Fitzgerald, nephew of Stanley Fitzgerald, who formerly was with the Pacific Feed & Seed here, came in Monday evening for a week's visit. He is one of the Military Police Escort Guards, stationed at Ogden, Utah, where he is a guard at the Italian internment camp. He has been in the service about a year.

## APPLICATION

Victory Garden Exhibits and Food Preservation Booths  
Coos County Fair—Sept. 4, 5, 6  
Entry Day, Sept. 3

VICTORY GARDEN EXHIBIT: Adult and Junior Division  
Prizes: 1st, \$15; 2nd, \$10; 3rd, \$7.50; 4th, \$5; 5th, \$2.50; 6th, \$1.  
Display: Five different vegetables judged on quality, variety, uniformity, market size, condition and attractiveness of display.

Reserve space for my Victory Garden Display

Name .....

Address .....

FOOD PRESERVATION BOOTH EXHIBITS by Organizations

Prizes: 1st, \$25; 2nd, \$15; and \$10 or each organization making a creditable display.

Display: Any acceptable method of Food Preservation, including canning, freezing, drying, brining, curing, smoking, etc.

Reserve space for our Food Preservation Exhibit

Name of Organization .....

Address .....

(Fill out this application blank and mail it to Bob Sheedy, Myrtle Point, as soon as possible)