

Coos Assessed Valuation Up \$3,000,000 Which Means Slight Drop In Tax Levy

BY ANN LIENKAEMPER

Due to a \$3 million increase in the valuation in Coos county, there will be a decrease, perhaps one-half mill, on the Coos county tax levy this year, according to Charles W. Forrest, county assessor. A greater decrease will be reflected in the school districts providing their budgets are the same this year as last.

Forrest attributes this increase in valuation to the extensive program carried on to assess all buildings as constructed, and also that reports of personal property returns filed with the assessor show much larger inventories of logs, lumber, etc., than last year, ownership records are up to date, and budgets of cities, school districts and ports are in. Taxes will be extended about August 15.

Lists have been submitted by the State Board of Forestry on land under fire patrol. Timber is patrolled for six cents an acre and grazing land for 3 1/2 cents by the Coos Fire Patrol association, a private corporation. Last year the per acre costs were 5 cents and 3 cents.

In citing this as a very busy year, Forrest noted these changes.

Three new plats have been filed, the High Court Park addition near Coos Bay, the Wilkinson addition near Empire, and the Mingsus Park Heights addition in Coos Bay which has been amended to sell in smaller lots.

City Boundaries Enlarged

The boundaries of Myrtle Point have been enlarged and in Coos Bay the two new plats, Mingsus Park and High Court, and Hub addition area were added to the city. The assessor's office has also handled the consolidation of ten schools, and the consolidation of part of school No. 49 with No. 17 East of Coos Bay.

In addition to these changes, there are about 15,000 others each year, such as in ownership, in the 80,000 parcels of property in Coos county.

On or near January 1 each year

a check is made of personal property, logs, lumber, etc., to locate the property in the correct school district. Aerial photographs are made of logs and lumber.

"We can't be everywhere at once, and this has proved a very valuable check," said Forrest. One mill owner reported no logs or lumber; however, the photos indicated a quantity of both. The pictures were referred to him, his books and inventories checked and it was found that he had \$10,000 of assessable merchandise. Another mill reported \$72,500 when it had an assessable inventory of \$271,000.

These discoveries are beneficial to small land holders, since they decrease their taxes, stated Forrest.

Takes Office Nine Years Ago

Nine years ago, on January 1, Forrest took office. Formerly he was a longshoreman in Coos Bay. He said, "I saw this chance to better my position in life and I took it." He had never had experience in tax work, but he liked to work with figures and was confident he could do the job.

"My opponent told me he was inexperienced, too, but was 'scared to death' he might win the election and not be able to do the job. That's where we differed," Forrest explained.

His staff of eight have all begun work since he took office. Next to him in seniority is Mrs. May Ensey, accountant. Ellis Selander, chief deputy; Robert MacLeod, building appraiser and personal property deputy; Alvin Hickam, building appraiser; Francis Flanagan, building appraiser and surveyor; Elvin Armstrong, acting draftsman and tentative building appraiser; Mrs. Elda Hansen, clerk, and Mrs. Ariel Riggs, clerk, complete the staff.

Every House Appraised
Building appraisers spend most of their time in the field. Every building in the county has an appraisal record on file. The old ones are inspected about once every five years, and the new ones as constructed.

The draftsman makes new maps when old ones wear out. On file in the assessor's office are 280 plat maps, 500 land class maps, and 500 miscellaneous maps.

Since he has taken office, Forrest has incorporated all record keeping into a very scientific system.

Perhaps the most revealing thing about this job, Forrest concluded, is how little people really know about the tax system, and especially about their own property holdings. Many don't even know how many acres they own.

A new spectrometer tells simultaneously how much of 16 different elements are in a metallic sample.



By The Hon. Harris Ellsworth
U. S. Representative

The first few days after the House of Representatives moved into its new quarters in the Ways and Means Committee room in the new House office building, I thought the temporary set-up would work out well. I have changed my mind. The sessions are little short of bedlam. In spite of every effort on the part of the presiding officer, the noise and confusion is terrible. As a result of the general high noise level on the floor, the loud-speaker system used by those who address the House is operated at what seems to be full volume—with six amplifier units blaring down at us from along the walls. A boiler factory in full production would be a nice quiet place by comparison.

A few days ago I was asked by a wire service reporter what I thought of the situation, and when I thought we were going to adjourn this session. Among other comments I said, "We should adjourn and go home." This remark I find was widely quoted on the radio and in the newspapers. There was, however, a great deal more behind my remark than revealed by the short easy quote. After watching the House of Representatives in operation for nearly two weeks under these extremely trying and adverse conditions, I am convinced that no more than the vitally necessary bills be considered now. This session must, of course, complete the annual appropriation bills. It should also complete action on a few unfinished items of relatively low importance—and then adjourn.

I am certain that consideration and action upon highly important and complicated legislation should not be attempted under present conditions.

There has not been a great deal of publicity given to the fact, but before long the Federal

Government through the Veterans Administration will begin the distribution of cash to veterans. The total will be two billion, eight hundred millions of dollars! Think what that amount of new, unobligated, spendable income will do toward bolstering a slightly sagging U. S. economy. No, for once an outpouring of federal money is not listed under the heading of government spending. This will be the return to veterans of World War II of overpayments they have made on their National Service Life Insurance Policies.

The Veterans Administration refers to the payment as a special dividend. Anyone who held NSLI for as long as three months is eligible for payments. Veterans need not write the VA about this. Application forms will soon be available at all post offices. All the veteran needs to do is obtain a form, fill it out and mail it to the VA.

In a letter I received recently from VA Administrator Carl R. Gray, Jr., he states, "Every effort is being made to speed up work in connection with payment of the dividend. We hope to mail out the first checks some time in January 1950, and to have the payment substantially completed by June 30th."

The announcement of plans for distributing insurance dividend checks to some eleven or twelve million veterans during the Congressional campaign year of 1950 touched many political nerves around the capitol. It was freely stated by Republican members of Congress, and on pretty reliable information it seemed, that these checks actually could be sent out during 1949 but that the distribution was delayed until next year for political reasons. I offer no opinion on this because I have no direct personal knowledge about it—but I do know that things of this sort have happened in this big government of ours.

With hot days coming one right after another why not treat the neighborhood kids to some homemade fruit-sicles. Simply fill an ice cube tray with apricot whole fruit nectar. When it is partially frozen insert a wooden spoon in each cube and freeze until solid.

Sentinel

COQUILLE, OREGON.

JULY 21, 1949.

Find Weather Hot—Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Tuttle who are en route to Lake Louise, Alberta, have written friends in Coquille that the temperature in The Dalles last week was as high as 110 degrees.

Return From Idaho—Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Winn and two daughters have returned from a vacation trip to Pend Oreille, Idaho.

Return From East Coast—Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hughes returned last week from an extended East Coast trip that took them to the cranberry center of the world, Massachusetts. They report a severe drought in the east which is hard on cranberries. Mr. Hughes who is local manager of the National Cranberry Cannery group in Coquille visited officials of the organization.

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CROWN COFFEE BREAD
(Celia Lee Tested Recipe)

Sift Together:
1 1/2 cups sifted Crown Best Patent Flour
2 teaspoons-double-acting baking powder
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt

Mix Together:
1 egg, beaten
3/4 cup milk
3 tablespoons melted shortening

Add the liquid ingredients to the dry ingredients, stirring only until well mixed. Pour into greased pan. Cover with crumb topping and bake in moderately hot oven (425°) 25 minutes.

CRUMB TOPPING
Mix Together:
2 tablespoons melted butter
2 tablespoons sugar
1/2 cup dry bread crumbs
1 teaspoon cinnamon

Sprinkle over coffee bread before baking.

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