

# Sentinel

COQUILLE, OREGON.

MARCH 16, 1950.

## Veterans Bonus, Yes or No?

### Coquille Legion Post Hears Report On Oregon State Veterans Bonus Bill

The February 27th meeting of Coquille Post 36, American Legion witnessed the largest gathering in many months at the Post headquarters in Coquille. The interest was motivated by a discussion of the highly controversial State Veterans' bonus currently being proposed by State Legion and VFW groups. At the request of the Coquille Post, John J. Pickett, local attorney, explained the proposed bonus, giving both pro and con views on the subject. A summary of Pickett's report is given below:

"At the present time 18 states in the Union have approved a State bonus. Oregon has once already rejected a bonus by defeating the measure sponsored by Roland C. Bartlett, largely because his measure would have eliminated the 41st division from receiving benefits.

"As far as the American Legion is concerned the bonus proposal was first introduced in 1946 at the State convention. It was overwhelmingly defeated that year, again in 1947, and still again in 1948. However, by that time the defeating majority was slight and in August of 1949 the Legion voted in favor of a bonus. Following this decision the VFW and Legion combined forces in an effort to put the measure before the people of Oregon by means of initiative legislation slated for the November, 1950 ballot.

"The Constitution of the State of Oregon, by Article XI Section 7 prohibits the legislature from lending the credit of the State of Oregon except in certain cases which does not include a veteran bonus measure. Thus, it is necessary for the people of Oregon to amend the constitution either by way of initiative or referendum submission to the voters. Following World War I the legislature submitted the bonus proposition to the voters by a referendum, or joint resolution, which was accepted favorably at the polls and resulted in an amendment to the constitution. Article XIX which gave Oregon veterans the sought for bonus. However, the constitution was amended for only a World War I bonus and today there can be no bonus in Oregon without a majority vote in favor of it at the polls.

"The present plan of the Legion and VFW is to gain a ballot spot in November by an initiative plan whereby petitions are being circulated among veteran and other groups in the hope of obtaining a requisite number of signatures with which to require a vote by the people on the measure. It appears that the required number of signatures will be obtained. The plan provides for amending the Constitution by adding a new article, XII, which would pledge the credit of the State notwithstanding present limitations and authorizing indebtedness in an amount not exceeding five per cent of all assessed property to create a fund from which to pay each bona fide resident of Oregon one year prior to enlistment who served honorably in the armed forces of the United States between September 16, 1940, and June 30, 1946. Compensation will be at the rate of \$10.00 per month for domestic service and \$15.00 per month for foreign service provided a veteran was in service for more than 90 days. A maximum to be received is \$600. Bonds, as a direct obligation of the state, the proposed to be issued to cover immediate payment. If a veteran has been killed in service or died by virtue of a service connected disease or disability, his survivor or survivors will receive the amount. Conscientious objectors have been excluded. The State director of Veterans' affairs is authorized and empowered to administer the action.

"No method has been stated as to how the State will raise money to pay for the bonus which is variously estimated to cost be-

between 53 and 56 millions. However, if the legislature fails to act in the form of a cigarette, sales, or other tax, then the cost of the bonus would automatically become a property tax. Legion estimates are that the amount, as a property tax, would run less than two mills, which would amount to about \$4 annually on a piece of property which now has a value of \$8000.

"While Oregon has not had a bonus, it has had since 1944 a World War Veterans' Loan program under which more than eighteen millions have been loaned."

"In closing Pickett summed up briefly the pros and cons of the bonus proposal:

#### CON

1. No method of payment has been devised by the initiative seekers, and this may result in the long fought sales tax or in a burdensome property tax.

2. The Oregon Business and Tax Research Institute estimates that the bonus seekers underestimate the cost to the state by three million.

3. Veterans have already received a bonus in the form of educational and other aids from the Federal government.

4. Oregon has loaned state veterans more than 18 millions since 1944.

5. An Oregon State bonus was defeated by vote when submitted previously to the public.

6. Physically able veterans should not consider themselves in any privileged group.

7. Veterans received mustering-out pay.

#### PRO

1. The average veteran has been forced to become indebted in his desperate effort to readjust himself to postwar inflation without savings and in most cases without a home.

2. The war worker who stayed home was able to save an average of \$12,000 after taxes.

3. Assuming that the legislature fails to take action to provide a method of raising funds for the bonus payment, a property tax would run less than two mills, or approximately \$4.00 annually on a home presently valued at \$8000.

4. The previous bonus was voted down because it excluded the 41st Division and not because the people did not want a bonus for veterans.

5. It is recognized as a principle of government that in times of slackening employment certain methods of pump-priming are called for and a soldiers' bonus is one of the approved methods."

Cottage cheese and peach salad gets many takers for Lenten dishes. Combine creamy cottage cheese with a little blue cheese and some thinly sliced celery. Arrange two canned cling peach halves on each garnished salad plate and top with the cheese mixture. Garnish with carrot strips.



Smiles differ. There is the friendly smile as natural in its geniality as the sun peeping gaily through the clouds. There is the smile of courage, of heroic splendor—a sunset loath to bid the world goodbye. And there is the smile of love, that rainbow of promise that illumines all life.

Those things which shall make for correct observance, for dignity, for amelioration, for fairness of fee—those things shall we always do.

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## March 29th Birthday Date For Two Coquille People Reaching 93rd Year

March 29 will mark the ninety-third birthday anniversaries of two of Coquille's oldesters, Fanny Alford and George Binder.

Mrs. Alford, the former Fanny Laird, makes her home in Coquille with her daughter, Mrs. Albert Christensen, who is planning a family celebration in her mother's honor next Wednesday.

Born in Salt Lake City, Utah, March 29, 1857, Fanny Laird married Al Alford in 1876, and came with him to Coos county in 1887. Mr. and Mrs. Alford and their family, four sons and a daughter, made their home in Brewster Valley for many years and resided also for a time in McKinley and Coquille.

Mrs. Alford has always been diminutive. Her present weight is sixty-six pounds and she has never weighed more than seventy

pounds. She wears a size 12 child's shoe.

A reception at his home in the North end of town is being planned in honor of George Binder on March 29. The party is being arranged by his stepdaughter, Mrs. Frank McCrary, and his granddaughter, Mrs. Harold Neal.

Mr. Binder was born in Ohio, March 29, 1857. In 1864 he moved to Indiana where he engaged in farming until 1886 when he came west to Oregon. He lived for a time in Portland before coming to Coos county. In 1913 he married Mina Hatcher, who passed away March 18, 1932.

After coming to the county he worked for a number of years in the coal mines and was employed for six and one-half years by the West Coast Telephone company. For all his ninety-three years,

Mr. Binder is still hale and walks into town from his North end home to visit with the old timers.

## WEYERHAEUSER REPORTS

TACOMA, WASH., March 9 — Weyerhaeuser Timber company showed net sales for 1949 of \$155,662,755 coupled with net income for the same period of \$24,633,016, in a financial statement released today.

## Deaths Filed

The following deaths were filed with the County Health Department during the week March 1 to 7:

Rose Fletcher, North Bend, Feb. 20.

Baby girl Wechter, Coos Bay, Feb. 26.

Sharon Belle Sappington, Coos Bay, March 1.

John Luther Dean, North Bend, February 24.

Shepard F. Bock, North Bend, February 23.

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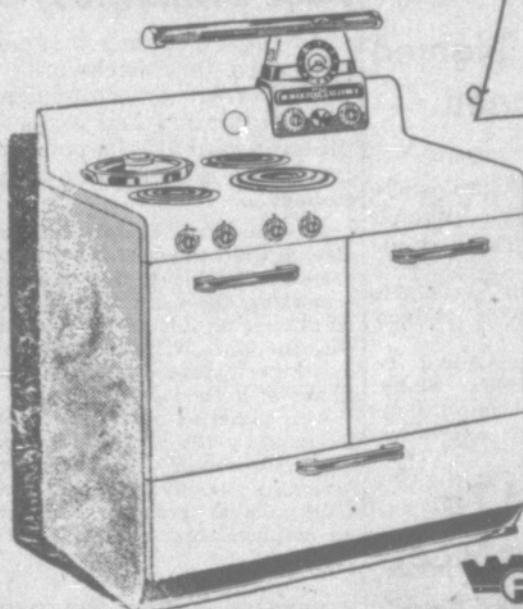
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