

Tax Burden Growing Oppressive Group Tells Coos-Curry People At Coquille

Senator Howard Belton, chairman of the Oregon state legislative interim tax study committee, warned some one hundred Chamber of Commerce luncheon guests, and some fifty to sixty Coos and Curry county residents at a four hour session at the Coquille community building Tuesday, "that the tax situation in the state is growing oppressive, and it is reaching a danger point."

Chairman Belton who heads the committee appointed by Governor McKay said a family of four in Oregon now pays \$1600 a year out in taxes. Taxes take 39 per cent of the assessed valuation of lands in the state, he said, and the question now becomes "How much government do people want? How much are they able to pay for?"

Explaining the work of the interim committee which has held fourteen state meetings and is completing more this week as one of meeting the people of the state and talking over the tax problems with them, Belton said the committee has no sure cure for making taxes easier to pay or for solving the problems of taxation. "We're all learning and studying," he stated, "and welcome suggestions and new ideas."

Appearing with Belton in Coquille were Rep. John I. Sell of The Dalles, Rep. Giles French of Moro, Mrs. Louise Humphreys of Oak Grove, and Judge Earl P. Day of Medford, all members of the committee.

The committee reported that it appeared that if a "no" vote was given to all money spending measures by the people the net deficit in Oregon during the next biennium would be \$7,000,000; however if a "yes" vote is given by the people at the fall elections, the net deficit would be \$42,000,000.

The committee explained that taxes are not voted by the legislature, but voted by the people, and the legislators must find ways of securing the tax money.

The bills under discussion are the Dunne pension bill, the veterans' pension bill, and the school bill to give \$30.00 additional to each school district for each pupil. Warning that this is the time to stop future financial difficulties for the state, the committee said thought should be given to economics and doing away with the frills in government both on the state and local levels.

"Coos county had a delinquency as high as 80 per cent in the last depression," Belton said, "and people should realize that now when they vote to spend money."

At the present time, the committee said, there is a growing delinquency.

At present the state collects most of its taxes from the income tax. With the high income tax a property tax levy has been offset for the past ten years, but at present the 1950 income tax is lower than in the past year, and a property levy by the state may be necessary.

As set by law, the state property levy is collected first and whatever is left is given to the counties and cities.

The history of a property tax is 100 years old, the territorial government having levied a four mill tax in 1849 for territorial purposes, Belton stated.

According to the committee the three bills coming up before the voters in November would call for \$12,000,000 for the children's aid for schools; \$5,000,000 for veterans' bonus; and nearly \$100,000,000 for the biennium for the old age pension bill.

In the discussion at the community building, Rep. Sell explained a bill pending which would change the state constitution making it against the law to levy a state property tax; Mrs. Humphreys talked on school taxes and welfare bills; Rep. French explained a proposed two per cent net income business tax to take the place of the personal property tax; and Judge Day talked on new methods of raising money, including the sales tax, and warned against the present dangers as we go into a rising cost of government, but a declining income period.

Welfare is now big business, the committee said, and it is double what it cost five years ago, now costing around \$30,000,000 a year. In Coos county it costs \$668,000 a year, and in Curry county, \$98,000 a year.

According to Rep. French there are 145,000 veterans in Oregon who would average around \$500.00 apiece bonus which would make the bonus bill cost around \$72,500,000 and with twenty year bonds a total of \$90,000,000.

Judge Day of Medford said a big problem at present centered around politically elected county assessors and the inequalities of assessment and valuation set up in the 36 counties. He said an appointive, non-political assessor's post combined with the tax collector's office would effect many savings for the taxpayers and make a better tax system. It would allow for uniform foreclosures and methods and times; and bring system in appraising and valuation.

Rep. French said the proposed two per cent net income business tax would do away with the inequalities of personal property assessments now made. As an example of the unfairness of the

personal property tax, he said a man raising turkeys does not pay a personal property tax because he markets his turkeys during the year and has no carry-over while a farmer raising beef cattle must carry over his stock during assessment time and thus pays personal property tax.

According to Chairman Belton \$613,000,000 is the over-all cost of government to Oregon people. Of this \$199,000,000 is collected on the state and local level; and \$414,000,000 is collected by the federal government.

In the public discussion following the talks by the tax committee, Paul Franz, Myrtle Point school principal, defended the school bill and the needs of teachers, and children.

Dave Philpott, Bullards route, told of the local school tax situation, and said the tax was being voted by people who were not property owners. He said it was alarming and something should be done.

Curry County Agent Robert Knox read a letter from that county's court in which they praised the tax committee's work, and said that the county felt that the time had come when something must be done as taxes had to be lowered.

According to Knox the pressure is for one group to spend the money of the property owner group, and the spending group without taxable property or income was bankrupting the people that did have property.

Also speaking during the afternoon were Lloyd Kuni, Coos Bay; Supt. Ray Hunsaker, Coquille; Supt. Leonard Mayfield, Coos Bay; Supt. Keith Goldammer, Bandon; Clarence Osika, Coquille Chamber of Commerce; C. G. Reiter, Coos Bay; Rev. Robert L. Greene, Coos Bay; Chester Huggins, Mrs. Henry Dalton, Myrtle Point dairy farmer, and John Donaldson, Denmark.

With the exception of the schoolmen present, the general tenor of the discussion by the people of the audience was that something should be done to stop spending, and increasing taxes.

Only Two Names Appear So Far For School Post

Only two candidates are in the field for the post of school director for Coquille school district No. 8-C, according to Clerk Ray Hunsaker, and they are Automobileman Stan Sherwood and Coos County Forester Jim Moorehead.

Final date for filing nominating petitions is June 12th, and final day of acceptance is June 14th, Hunsaker stated. A nominating petition must carry the names of at least ten people.

Election, to name the successor to veteran school board member, and now chairman, Dick Slater, will be held at the Washington school on Monday, June 19th.

Riverside Lumber Company Celebrates Five Years With Banquet And Program

Five years of continuous co-operation were marked Thursday night with a banquet and program at which some 118 employees of the Riverside Lumber company and local retail yard and guests were present in the junior auditorium of the Community building. Noble Chowning, Sr., president of the company, presided.

Explaining the start of the company five years ago, Chowning said it was formed by conversation in February and officially started on June 1st, the date of the banquet, in 1945.

Making up the stockholders were E. M. Wilson, Raymond Preussler, Albert Preussler, Archie Cotter, Morris Vigue, Noble Chowning, and Noble Chowning, Jr.

Stressing the fact that cooperation of all helped the company progress, Toastmaster Chowning then introduced each employee of the more than 100 by name to the group.

A program consisting of dinner music on the Lions Hammond electric organ was played by Bobbie Burns. It was made up of nostalgic old pieces and modern numbers.

The after-dinner music program was presented by Betty Lou Cotter, who sang "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," a vocal duet by Mrs. Noble Chowning, Jr., and Mrs. Dick Sore, "April Showers," and "If I Were the Only Girl," two violin solos by Ronald Williams, a recent graduate of the University of Portland school of music, "Clare

de Lune," by Debussey, and a modern popular piece, "It Isn't Fair," and an encore, "London-derry Air," and two solos by the Rev. Raymond Harrison.

The banquet was served by the ladies of the Pioneer Methodist church who use their profits for charitable work. The tables were lovely with spring flowers also the work of the Methodist women.

Prizes were won by Riley Peak, Oliver Myers, and Mrs. John Shilling. Both Peak and Myers are two of the veteran employees of the company.

Homemakers

Turn To Page 4 and 5 For Two Big Pages of Canning Suggestions

Mobile X-Rays

Set To Start Today In County

With the objective of filming at least eighty per cent of the adult population in the southern end of the county, two mobile chest x-ray units are working in the area this month. The x-ray units, which aid in the eradication of tuberculosis, are in Coos county for the sixth annual survey.

This year a new plan for the survey has been put in effect aimed at contacting a larger percentage of the population than in previous years. The intensive survey which is underway in the southern end of the county will be repeated in other sections of the county in the two ensuing years. Only a token survey of one-day each has been planned for Coquille, Coos Bay and North Bend, while the towns and rural areas to the south are receiving a thorough survey.

The schedule for the state board mobile unit is: Thursday, June 8, Coquille City hall, 11 a. m. to 7 p. m.; Friday, June 9, Arago Creamery, 8 a. m. to 1 p. m.; Saturday, June 10, Myrtle Point Veneer factory, 3 p. m. to 7 p. m.; Monday, June 12, near Myrtle Point Security bank, 12 noon to 8 a. m.; Tuesday, June 13, Myrtle Point, near Security bank, 12 noon to 8 p. m.; Wednesday, June 14, near Myrtle Point Security bank, 12 noon to 8 p. m.; Thursday, June 15, Myrtle Point, near Security bank, 12 noon to 8 p. m.; Friday, June 16, Coos Bay, American Legion hall, 11 a. m. to 7 p. m.

The schedule for the second Mobile Unit is as follows: Thursday, June 8, Bandon Wayside, North, 9 a. m. to 12 noon; Bear Creek store, 2 p. m. to 7 p. m.; Friday, June 9, Riverton, McGowan's store, 11 a. m. to 6:00 p. m.; Monday, June 12, Powers and Gaylord, Fellowship hall, 1 p. m. to 9 p. m.; Tuesday, June 13, Powers and Gaylord, Fellowship hall, 1 p. m. to 9 p. m.; Wednesday, June 14, Broadbent store, 10 a. m. to 1 p. m.; Thursday, June 15, Bridge, Murphy's store, 3 p. m. to 8 p. m.; Friday, June 16, School, 4 p. m. to 8 p. m.; Monday, June 19, North Bend community building, 11 a. m. to 7 p. m.

Coos Wagon Road Improvements Planned By B.L.M.

Daniel Goldy, regional B.L.M. administrator, explained the Federal Bureau of Land Management plan for major improvement to the Coos Bay Wagon road at a meeting of the Coos Bay district advisory board Monday afternoon.

Mr. Goldy told the board and a number of timber operators present at the meeting that the plan provided for a toll road for commercial vehicles. Legal problems are well in hand and it is expected that the department will soon ask both the county and the state for formal declarations transferring any right or title they might hold or claim.

Coos county cooperation will be asked in the matter of obtaining right-of-way needed for straightening and improving the road and enforcing tolls. The improvements will be paid for by timber adjacent to the road.

The advisory board discussed the 1951 timber sales program. The full allowable cut of 118 million board feet may be offered together with some timber left over from this year's allowable cut, it was decided.

Judge Felsheim was re-elected chairman and William Ruhmann of Coquille was re-elected vice-chairman of the advisory board for the coming year.

Discussing the new right of way regulations, Goldy said that the basic policy is that the federal government must control the timber it manages. For control there must be access. Under regulations, the B. L. M. can build roads, using congressional appropriations or financing from timber sales, or it can negotiate with operators who own or are building a road.

Shelley Road People Ask New Star Route

A letter from the deputy assistant postmaster general in Washington, D. C., promised an investigation of the need for a new star mail route from Coquille up the Shelley road, Harold Gregory told The Sentinel today.

Some thirty-five families would be benefited by getting their mail this way, Gregory said.

The area which is east of Coquille is rapidly becoming a thickly settled suburban area to Coquille.

MT. STATES POWER OFFICER VISITS IN COQUILLE

Al Trimble, executive vice-president of Mt. States Power company of Albany, visited in Coquille Wednesday. While here he attended Rotary.

City Well Down Pending Water Sample Testing

Samples of water from the city well at the north end of town were sent to the Oregon state board of health laboratory in Portland for testing Tuesday night. The well was shut-off at that time pending receipt of a report on the condition of the water which will be telephoned here sometime this morning.

The well was stopped from being used for city drinking purposes

MAP STUDY MADE
According to Dr. Eleanor B. Gutman, Coos county health officer, approximately fifty cases of stomach upset have occurred mainly in the Sanford Heights-North End of the city area, and a complete mapping of all cases is being made. Samples of water from the area, specimens from patients have been sent to the state board of health for testing. Also sent in are samples of water from unaffected parts of the city. Several days are expected to elapse before anything will be determined. Dr. Gutman said.

Following a severe outbreak of stomach influenza, mostly centering in the section of town getting the greatest amount of the well water, C. Eugene Fields, county sanitarian, requested the test.

The well which was turned on last Thursday was pumping 200,000 gallons of water a day into the city system. The pump was hauled up once due to a cave-in at the bottom of the well, but by Monday the water had cleared up, and the first few days' muddiness had disappeared.

Heavy chlorination was being used in the water.

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It Was Warm!

Warm weather paid a visit to Coos county the past week.

Unofficial thermometer readings on Thursday, June 1st, set the heat at 90 degrees on the Fairview side of the county, and 87 in Coquille.

Milder weather was experienced Friday, Saturday and Sunday and on Tuesday morning a shower fell to break the hot spell.

"No Violence" From Strike

Justice of Peace Fred Bull warned both the IWA-CIO union officials and the independent truckers now hauling logs for Coos Bay Lumber company, that his court would tolerate no violence in the present strike.

The warning came Tuesday afternoon following a complaint filed by E. E. Benedict, president of District 7, IWA, against Oscar Coldiron, an independent trucker, charging Coldiron with threatening to commit a felony.

Coldiron appeared voluntarily before Justice Bull and the case was taken under advisement. Bull emphasized his stand on "no violence" and said that if there was any violence on either side, the district attorney's office would do all possible to prosecute the perpetrator of the offense.

The strike involving the Coos Bay Lumber company continued this week with logs still moving into the Coquille plant which is an A. F. of L. plant.

At noon Monday Sheriff W. H. Howell was called to the Johnson's mill dump three miles from Coquille to give safe conduct to four truckloads of logs going through the IWA picket lines, but no trouble was encountered.

Insurance Agency Formed By Three

A partnership has been formed between F. R. Bull, Carl Hooker, and Rodney Creager. As of June 1, the firm has functioned under the firm name "Coquille Insurance Agency."

Gets High Honor—Prospect high school was one of the few Oregon schools to be nationally recognized by being given a Babe Ruth plaque. It was presented by Carl A. Troester, director of the Babe Ruth Foundation and had two of the names of the Prospect high students engraved on it. They are Dave Campbell and Gerald Willson of the senior class. Willson is well known in Coquille having taken most of his education in this city.

Eleven Dairy Herds Set High Records For Production During Past Year

Eleven dairy herds, nine in Coos county and two in Curry county, produced over 400 pounds of butterfat per cow during the 1949-50 production year, according to a report just completed on standard herds included in the Southwest Oregon Dairy Herd Improvement association prepared by Byron Carlyle, supervisor.

Topping the list of high producers is a herd of registered and grade Jerseys owned by Ben Monson of Hauser, which produced an average of 10,094 pounds of milk and 492.1 of butterfat per cow during the year.

Owners of the other high producing herds and the average production of butterfat during the year are: W. R. Davenport, Myrtle Point, 475.4 pounds; Clifford Freude, North Bend, 450.4 pounds; H. B. Mahaffy, Coos River, 442.4 pounds; George Rood, Coos River, 441.6 pounds; Clyde Wakner, Port Orford, 441.5 pounds; Leonard Rood, Coos River, 433.4 pounds; Frank Rood, Jr., North Bend, 426.9 pounds; Smith Brothers, Coos River, 419.7 pounds; Paul Wagner, Port Orford, 415.9 pounds; Brookmead Dairy Ranch, Coos River, 415.5 pounds.

Each of the high producing herds include both registered and grade Jerseys, except the Brookmead Dairy which includes registered Holsteins and Guernseys. The Smith Brothers dairy is made up mostly of milking Shorthorn cattle.

Thirty-eight herds, including 1896 cattle, complete the testing year under the standard plan with an average production of 344.6 pounds per cow, according to the

Rural Fire District One Step Closer Due To Petitions Now Being Circulated

Fire protection throughout the establishment of a solid rural fire zone district grew one step closer today as petitions were readied for circulation throughout the outlying districts surrounding Coquille.

Action approving the petitions which would be presented to the Coos county court for approval, and following that calling of a special election to determine whether or not the people desired a rural fire district was made Friday night at a meeting presided over by Realtor George Oerding, chairman of the temporary rural fire district planning committee.

The petitions have the approval of the state fire marshal's office in Salem, and are being circulated by property owners, Howard Moy, Dick Sorg, Earl Benham, Henry George, Earl Cross, Paul Lentz, Cince Finley, Theodore Clinton, Stacy Johnson, and Art Hooton.

The legal documents carrying at least 25 per cent of the property owners in the solid fire district must be filed with the county court not later than June 15th, according to Chairman Oerding.

If approval is secured from the court, the election will then be scheduled.

Oerding said that his group is calling attention to the fact that temporary approval of the plan is what the signers give when they put their names to the petition. It is approval of a solid district with all property both real and personal to be taxed accordingly.

Anyone located within the boundaries of the district, and not contacted by a circular, may stop at the Oerding office and affix his signature.

Fall Festival Set For September By Coquille Chamber

A two-day celebration heralding Fall Festival days will be the occasion of dancing, a free beef steer barbecue, a gigantic public auction, square dance contests, concessions, and a complete style show, along with other features, it was announced today by Stan Sherwood, Fall Festival chairman.

Following a meeting Monday of the steering committee of the Chamber of Commerce celebration, plans are now underway for the program.

Other features to be incorporated into the program include a parade with special attention to "kiddies," a Saturday night dance, and various contests.

Next meeting of the committee is set for Monday, June 12.

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LIONS PLAN TO ATTEND
Coquille Lions who will attend the state convention in Medford over the week-end are Harry Slack, Clarence Barton, Jack Moore, Chet Murray, Chuck Adams, Wayne Smith, Bob Harris and Ray Jeb.



Leroy Rice has a dog that is so smart, says Clarence Barton, that when Leroy sends it down to the store to get the morning paper, and Leroy says "Journal," and not "Oregonian," or vice versa, the dog comes back with the right paper. According to Barton that's just about the smartest dog in Coos county.

Be that as it may, the reason Clarence Barton is so interested in dogs recently is because he went to an Elks meeting and came back with a dog . . . or at least he will have one from the litter of Harry Thornton's prize dog. And now he wants to know how to train it.

Reports that the AF of L are busy around Coos Bay Lumber camp crews trying to sell them on the AF of L union poses an interesting question. If the CBL camps go AF of L in case of a union election, then what happens to the strike that has now tied up the camps?

To our simple way of figuring we didn't know the difference between a union shop and a "closed shop" and we inadvertently made the mistake of calling the strike question over the "closed shop" issue. It wasn't. We were wrong. It is "union shop."

It never fails: whenever a newspaperman hits a new town he invariably visits the local newspaper, and Rep. Giles French, publisher of the Sherman County Journal at Moro, county seat of the eastern Oregon county, and a leader and possible speaker of the house in the Oregon legislature, had to spend part of his morning in The Sentinel office and shop Tuesday while here on the state interim tax committee hearing.

Even the governmental offices get sort of impatient with governmental red-tape. Now it's pretty even money that the Coos-Curry Electric cooperative may get their final approval on moving into their new building which they purchased many months ago and may get in around Christmas.

Guys like Orville Livermore don't always get mentioned in the paper as often as they should . . . he along with some from the city and from Mt. States make up a Saturday, Sunday "standby" crew. Last week a farmer came in to our office and told us of a line just shoved down by a cat. We finally got hold of Orville who had been out on a call. This past week Johnny Leatherwood, standby man for Mt. States, put in a lot of hours when small troubles put your lights on the blink.

A lot of people who have children will understand the predicament Ivan Smalley was in when he decided to take one of his several children to McMinnville with him when he went up to visit his father who was just getting out of the hospital. He had to do it on a basis of "turns." "Your turn, his turn, so on." Sometimes it works.

Spotlighters are busy again . . . most recent report is from Lloyd Claver who lost a big fine white-face last week on his ranch (formerly part of the Wayne Watson ranch on Rink creek), when someone shot it in the head with a high-powered rifle and then left the steer to spoil.

Changing times: we've had three good-looking high school boys come around after jobs this week, and one of them who wants to buy a trumpet for his band work next fall at Bandon high school was glad to put in some wood and do other chores around a yard that formerly used to scare any and all sundry lads away.

If you want to make Alan Rhay grimace, just say, "Well, suppose you have a vacation now that the camps are down?" Due to a ruling that to draw pay before the

(Continued on page 8)