

# The Times-Herald

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NO. 6

## COUNTY TAX COMMISSION COMPLETES WORK

### Cut Proposed Budgets About \$22,000; Market Road Levy is Eliminated.

The Harney County Tax commission has completed its work of investigating the tax budgets and adjourned Wednesday night. In all some \$21,000 was taken off the road tax by eliminating the market road tax entirely and reducing the general road levy \$5,000. Many of the school district budgets were cut and the sum asked for advertising purposes was reduced to \$500.

There is some complaint about eliminating the market road tax as it leaves some uncompleted work that is a loss unless means are provided to go on. However, there still remains in the market road fund \$13,000 which may be used and if it could be expended under county supervision it could be made to go a long way but under the state highway supervision it will not. The tax commission took an arbitrary stand upon the market road tax because of the excessive "overhead" under state highway supervision. In a county as large as Harney where the road mileage is so great, the market road program as now applied under the state highway supervision is not satisfactory. An instance is cited in the continuation of the Pine creek road. The county built the Pine creek grade for \$1,800 a mile. A market road continuation of the same road with less difficult construction has cost \$8,000 a mile. The fact is that market roads under highway supervision are nothing less than real highways. They are too expensive considering the great mileage necessary. This uncompleted market road from Pine creek to Drewsey is a waste as it stands today, but could be made a good road at reasonable expense by the county completing it.

The state tax has been reduced some \$10,000 this year and with the amount lopped off by the county commission it will be quite a material reduction.

Lack of time to examine the final report of the commission will not permit a detailed resume of the deliberations this week but we hope to give it more extended consideration as soon as the figures may be secured.

## PROMINENT CITIZEN DIES SUDDENLY

The people of this city were shocked yesterday when told that James Sheppard had died shortly after noon. He had undergone an operation for appendicitis Monday and was thought to be recovering quite satisfactorily, therefore his death was very unexpected. Mr. Sheppard was a married man and leaves a wife and four children, three boys and one daughter. He was an active member of the Odd Fellows and the funeral will be conducted by that Order from the lodge rooms this afternoon at 1 o'clock according to information given out late yesterday afternoon.

As the type for this issue is all set up the evening before press day it was impossible to get further details of Mr. Sheppard's life but an obituary will be published in our next issue. He was a highly respected citizen and had been a stone mason and contractor in this city for many years.

## COMPETITION FOR GOVERNMENT AID

Both Deschutes and Malheur counties have delegations in Washington asking for government aid for irrigation projects. This was learned through a telegram early in the week and is further confirmed by press reports. Malheur county is asking that government funds be used on the Owyhee project. Deschutes is always ready for anything progressive and its county judge is in Washington to urge aid. The Harney Valley Irrigation District is represented by a brief filed by Secretary Mothershead but it may develop that a personal representative will go to urge the claims of the local project and bring it before the department in its most favorable light. The Harney Valley project has many

advantages in its claim for aid in that it is so much cheaper than the others demanding recognition that it surely will have the attention of the department. It is pointed out that the government it already interested in projects with acreage charges from \$100 to \$300 an acre but there is no movement toward farmers taking up the propositions, but with productive, rich land such as is included in the Harney valley project at so much smaller cost it is thought there is little doubt but that farmers of the middle west and the more thickly settled farming districts will be glad to take advantage of it.

We should have given this matter attention early in the game. It would have been better had we been better organized and in a position to push our claim with such vigor that we would have had recognition over any other project in the field. It has merit and could easily win if properly backed.

## MORE FICTION LOANED BY STATE LIBRARY

The following is a new list of fiction just received at the Public Library as a loan from the State Library:

- Paine, R. D., Comrades of the Rollong Ocean.
- Farnol, Black Bartlemy's treasure.
- Deland, Vehement Flame.
- Masters, E. L., Skeeters Kirby.
- Bennett, Mr. Prohack.
- Benson, E. F., Miss Mapp.
- Benson, Peter.
- Quiller-Couch, Foe-Farrell.
- Brown, Old Crow.
- Dunsany, E. J. M. D. P. 15h baron.
- Don Rodriguez.
- Cabell, J. B., The Rivet in grandfather's neck.
- Sabatini, Rafael, The snare.
- Lagerlof, The Outcast.
- Hall, Aurora the Magnificent.
- Hall, Love laughs last.
- McFee, Command.
- Kaye-Smith, Joanna Godden.
- Hanson, The business philosophy of Moses Irons.
- Hardy, No. 13 Rue du Bon Diabie.
- Reynolds, Green Valley.
- Webster, H. K. Joseph Greer and his daughter.
- Minn, Mr. Wu.
- Bone, Broken Stowage.
- Milne, Red House mystery.
- Poole, Millions.
- Hutchinson, This Freedom.
- Homer, The Iliad, tr. by Bryant (Riverside literature ser.)
- Winchester, The Life of John Wesley.

## OF INTEREST TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF BURNS

Not often does a man of national prominence find it possible to visit every part of his assigned district, and especially a city such as Burns, isolated as it is by lack of railroad transportation.

Such a man is to be in Burns Sunday, Dec. 9, and he is coming especially in the interest of the young people of the city.

W. T. Milliken, D. D. Director of religious education of the Oregon Baptist State Convention, is a nationally known man of prominence in his particular line of work.

The young people of Burns, regardless of any church affiliations are invited to hear him at the Baptist Church at 11 A. M. and 7 P. M. he will conduct the usual services. There will be special services at 3 P. M. Sunday especially for young people. Do not fail to hear him.

Special music by the choir with Mrs. A. C. Welcome rendering a solo.

## READY FOR BRIDGE WORK

T. J. McDonald, who with R. E. Drake, has the contract for building bridges for the Malheur Railroad from Burns to Seneca, informs us they have the pile driver in readiness for operation and are now waiting for coal for the engine. They will begin work on the river at the east edge of town and work from that point north. There are several bridges to be constructed in the first eight miles and this will require considerable time.

Geo. W. Wright, who is now residing on a stockraising homestead about ten miles from Drewsey, was in Burns this week on business. Mr. Wright practiced law for many years but is now getting much satisfaction out of developing his stockraising homestead, finding both healthful recreation and enjoyment in the op-

## MAN IS OVERCOME BY CARBON DIOXIDE GAS

### Thomas Gibson Comes Near Losing His Life Sleeping In Closed Garage.

Tom Gibson nearly lost his life by sleeping in the big stone storage portion of the Burns Garage last Monday night. He drove his car in and having his camp bed along spread it in one corner of the building to sleep for the night. There is a Delco plant in the building and during the night several cars were driven in for storage as it is frost proof and the cars are kept from freezing the radiators. The attendant would leave the door open only long enough to drive the car in when it would again be closed and it would take several minutes to get the car in position before the engine was shut down. During the night with these cars coming in and the Delco plant running much carbon dioxide gas was discharged. This was not noticed by the attendant as he would remain but a short time, but it had almost disastrous effects upon the sleeping man and his dog.

Charley Loggan came into the building Tuesday morning about 8 o'clock and remarked to one of the other employees that Tom was sleeping late, but did not attempt to disturb him. Charley took a car out of the rear end of the garage and upon finding an old dog belonging to Archie McGowan lying in the seat remarked that the old dog seemed to be gasping. Willard Laythe, who was with him, said the old fellow was about to die from old age and that they both considered this responsible for his condition. Later it was discovered that Tom was unconscious and he was removed for medical aid. Tom's dog was also overcome and was taken out.

At first little hopes were entertained for Mr. Gibson's recovery, but about 2 o'clock Wednesday morning he regained consciousness and is now recovering. Mr. McGowan's dog died but Mr. Gibson's has revived.

## NOTICE TO REBEKAHS

Members of Silvia Rebekah Lodge No. 43 are requested to be present at the regular meeting Dec. 18. This lodge is requested to send a Christmas box to the Odd Fellows Home in Portland. Each member is asked to bring or send a gift (wrapped) that will add joy or comfort to some child or old person who is cared for there. Let your gift help fill the box.

By order of N. G. HELENE BIGGS, Sec'y.

Rye Smyth Jr., was in town this week.

## PRINEVILLE PAPER COMMENTS ON ROAD ROUTE

### Suggests Through Connection East and West by Burns; Some History Cited.

(Prineville Oregonian)

That is desired to build a 32 mile extension from Crane to Burns to the lumber resources in the Malheur National forest was the notification made November 24 by the Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation Company to the inter-state commerce commission, according to a story carried in the Portland Telegram.

O-W. R. & N. Company officials in Portland stated that while the application is being made in the name of their line, the work will really be done through the Oregon Short Line, another unit of the Union Pacific system, which operates the existing line from Ontario to Crane, continues the story.

The purpose of the extension is to connect with the common carrier road which is to be built between Burns and Seneca by the Herrick timber interests.

This announcement confirms what local people have long believed that the Union Pacific is back of the Herrick interests in their railroad development in the Burns district and gives additional ground for the rumors that have persistently come from the district where the work is going on that the ultimate destination of the extension is a connection with the Deschutes canyon lines and the securing of the vast timber tonnage of Crook county.

Ever since the Oregon Short Line was constructed through Baker and LaGrande, the company and its successors have maintained control of the right-of-way rights to surveys through this part of the state and the story is told with many facts to give it credence how the surveyors stakes were changed in the final report at the time of the building of the road and the southern route made to appear more difficult than the present one and how the matter was called to the attention of the president of the road at that time. He is said to have ordered another survey, to have found that the route was not only shorter but required less mountain climbing, and to have secured the right-of-way rights. The editor of this paper is personally acquainted with men who were employed on that first survey and who for years held interests in the isolated interior of Oregon, waiting for the construction of the road.

H. C. H. S.

The second term came to a close this week with exams on Thursday and Friday.

Just two weeks now and the Holiday season will be here. The Christmas-New Year vacation will last two weeks.

As a closing event for the year 1923 the students decided to produce the annual Fumbles show on Thursday evening December 20th. The various classes are planning on special numbers as are other groups. The general committee reports enthusiasm and spirit in class rivalry and promises an evening if possible more enjoyable than ever.

An order of the H has been organized among those entitled to the letter. This evening a feed prepared by the members will be given at the school. As guests, there will be some of the men who assisted during the football season. A lively time, is in session for all attending. It is hoped that all hands survive the cooking and talks.

The debating squad is busily working these days getting material. The question for Southern Oregon is "Resolved, that the United States government should own and operate the coal mines of this country."

And the order of the H, threatens to eclipse all other stunts at the "Fumbles." They promise to deliver a fun raising, mirth provoking, side splitting number which will make the girls green with envy.

Don't forget the date, Thursday, December 20th.

## WE HAVE ELECTRIC LIGHTS—NOT

Much satisfaction was expressed last Monday when it was discovered that the electric lights were burning on the streets and in the several places of business where the lights had not been turned off from previous use. It was discovered that Roy Moulten had been instructed by the new owners of the plant to start up and get the "shorts" out of the lines, etc. Roy had done that and decided that since there was sufficient water at the power plant at the mill to run he would give us illumination—but alas! Tuesday night about six o'clock there was one of the worst wind storms we have witnessed here for a long time and "blink" went the lights. Many poles on the transmission line between town and the mill had blown down and so mixed the wires that they had to be turned off. Now Roy doesn't know what to do. He could reset the poles but they are in poor condition and he doesn't know whether the power people would like to have them cut off and reset or whether they would prefer having "stubs" therefore we are again without lights—in fact never did have them but for a short time. It is hoped the new owners will come in at once. They had intended being here before this and have service.

Nelson Wilber who resides over on the Stinking Water near Drewsey was a visitor on business in the city on Tuesday driving over in his new Star.

## WIDE DIFFERENCE IN COST OF EDUCATION

### Tax Commission Investigation Discloses Startling Figures in Schools.

The Harney county tax commission has been in session at the court house during this week, making an investigation of the budgets submitted by the various tax levying bodies in order to arrive at a basis for the taxes for the coming year. All the members are present and the work presents many problems.

The most startling discovery so far is the manner of conducting the affairs of the school districts of the county and one that is having serious consideration. When the per capita tax for the education of children covers a range from \$37.50 as the lowest to \$650.50 it is time that some way be provided to economize. These figures were disclosed upon investigating the budgets of the school districts in Harney county. Some remedy must be found to get the schools on a more business like basis. Whether this means a county unit plan as has been adopted in some counties of Oregon and is in operation in several other states, or some other manner is devised is up to those who will make a study of the situation. In several of the districts the per capita runs up into the hundreds, \$124, \$135, \$250, etc., are found.

The investigation shows that the Harney county high school costs \$132 per student and the union high school at Crane costs \$272 per student.

School Districts that have been putting aside a stipulated amount each year as a sinking fund to retire bonds are found to have no funds on hand.

The Times-Herald has been inclined to the county unit plan of school supervision. It would at least place the management of the financial affairs of the schools on a more business like basis and has resulted satisfactorily in other places. The writer is told that some counties that have adopted this plan desire a change but if so it has not been much agitated in the papers. State Supt. Churchill is authority for the statement that it is a success in the counties in Oregon so far trying the plan and that it is successful in other states.

People are not usually opposed to a school tax as they realize the importance of the schools, yet, it appears the taxpayers do not give their school district affairs the close study they should. There should be and is some way that the cost of educating children can be had at less than \$650.50.

The tax commission will give the matter further study and consideration.

In this connection it might be well to state that Harney county has \$350,000 delinquent taxes and of this much will not be collected as it is on dry land that is abandoned in many instances. This is really what the tax commission is confronted with. It isn't very complimentary to the county but is indicative of what all of the eastern and central part of the state is facing. It is a condition that reflects the result of the land hungry people who settled upon the dry homesteads back in 1909 to 1915 with the expectation of making dry farming a success or the hope of irrigation that is so remote that they have given up expecting it.

## MOTHERS CLUB

(Contributed)

The Mothers Club met at the home of Mrs. I. S. Geer on Thursday afternoon of this week with Mrs. George Simmons as joint hostess.

\$10 was donated to the Albertina Kerr Baby home at Portland.

As a diversion following the business session a game of progressive peanuts was played with Mrs. Will Gould winning first honors and Mrs. Fred Goyt second. This was much enjoyed by the guests and was followed by refreshments.

The next meeting of the Club will be at the home of Mrs. John Caldwell on December 29.

Fred Otley was up from his home at Lawen yesterday.

