

Illinois Valley News

An independent newspaper devoted to the development of the Illinois Valley and its surrounding districts.

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Editor

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION
ACTIVE MEMBER

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HOW ABOUT A HAND HERE?

The most remarkable thing about the irrigation meeting held at the Ivy Theatre last Tuesday night was the miserably poor attendance.

It should be understood from the outset that nobody is going to hand the Valley anything on a silver platter; nobody ever has yet. If the residents are not interested in a project which will put 73,000 acres of Valley land under irrigation and distribute several hundreds of thousands of dollars through the Valley in construction payrolls, that is one thing; if they are interested, it is high time they began to "talk it up" and get behind the project.

"Rogue Basin Reclamation Project" sounds like something over the hills and a long way off, but Illinois Valley drainage makes us a part of the "Rogue Basin" and the Valley is a definite part of the reclamation project. If the people of the Valley want it; if they don't, they are taking the proper course for the whole thing to be lost by default.

It is far beyond the scope of this paper to describe the project in any but the most general terms. It is therefore imperative that people attend these meetings, ask questions, look at the maps, find out what the project is all about and where we fit in. As the project is presently laid out, it will place 73,000 acres of Josephine and Jackson county land under irrigation. Almost half of this, 35,000 acres, lies in Josephine county and nearly half of the Josephine county acreage lies in the Illinois Valley-Deer Creek area. So the Valley comprises almost one-fourth of the total reclamation project, and only 50 people show up to hear what it's all about and how it's going to work. We'll have to do better than that; if every individual and organization doesn't get behind this thing and give a show of interest and activity, we will be passed by and a lot of good Valley land will go on growing briars and stumps because there's no water on it.

And we're all interested in it; not just the farmers. A reclamation project brings the kind of solid building that makes a really stable community; and it is estimated that a city of 5,000 people would be needed to serve this area after the population increase which would follow adequate irrigation. The merchants and property owners of Cave Junction could hardly fail to prosper under those circumstances. Many Valley enterprises cater to tourists, and the recreational possibilities offered by a lake of substantial proportions in the Woods Creek area would be of great benefit to them.

We'll all benefit from this project, but we'll have to go out and get it; they're not going to overpower us and force us to accept it.

SO YOU DON'T PAY TAXES?

One of our favorite themes is the person who is lucky enough to own no real estate, is unfortunate enough to pay no income tax (due to small income or large exemptions) and thus takes a very tolerant view of tax wastage and government splurging on the principle that "they ain't spending my money." You just think they ain't, brother.

The American Taxpayers' association has released figures to show that you pay taxes at every level of income, only at the lower levels they sugar-coat it by hiding them. Do you pay rent? Do you use milk, bread, eggs, clothes or soap? If so, you pay taxes; hidden, but you pay them. And of course things like gasoline, liquor and tobacco carry taxes that you can see; but most people don't realize that they also carry taxes that you can't see.

The association's investigations showed that there are two hundred one taxes on a gallon of gasoline. There are one hundred taxes on an egg, one hundred fifty-one on a loaf of bread, one hundred fifty-four on a cake of soap. Hidden taxes force your landlord to add \$10 to every \$30 that he charges you for rent.

Detailed investigation of the financial affairs of three typical American families, each consisting of a man and wife and two children, owning no taxable property and paying no income tax, showed that the family with an income of \$960 a year paid out \$123.48 in taxes; the family with an income of \$1,800 a year paid \$243.00 in taxes and the family earning \$2,400 paid \$314.76 in taxes. The taxes were property taxes (hidden in the rent), excise taxes, licenses, import duties and taxes included in freight costs.

The monthly tax break-down for the family earning \$960 (\$80 per month) was as follows: Food \$27, taxes \$2.11; shelter \$18, taxes \$4.70; clothing \$9, taxes \$0.86. This family's monthly taxes add up to well over \$10, or more than one-eighth of its income.

Take clothes, for instance; a woman's cotton dress. The association begins with the bale of cotton; the farmer pays taxes on his land and farm implements to the state, the county and the school district. He passes them along in the price of his bale of cotton. At the cotton gin there are license taxes, excise taxes, social security taxes, machinery taxes and property taxes, all added to the price of the cotton.

At the mills, most of these taxes are encountered again and once more added to the price. At the clothing factory the manufacturer's taxes are added on.

Finally the dress reaches the store, where the storekeeper must

Washington Weekly Letter

By REP. HARRIS ELLSWORTH

During the last ten years Oregon has grown in population more rapidly than any other state. The last census estimate available is the 1949 figure which placed the population of our state at 1,736,000, a percentage gain of around 60% over 1940. The Constitution requires an enumeration to be taken every ten years but it was not until the passage of the law approved March 6, 1902, that a permanent census office was established. Subsequent laws dealt with the problem of census taking but in 1929 a basic census law was passed which, with minor amendments, is the legal authority for census taking now.

The 1929 law also spelled out exactly how members of the House of Representatives are to be apportioned among the states. In the first Congress the membership of the house was 65. The Constitution set this figure specifically, apportioning the members to the states. The Constitution does not, however, specify regarding the membership of the house for the future. It merely says: "The number of representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand, but each state shall have at least one representative." The house grew pretty much on that basis until the membership reached 391 in the year 1900. After the 1910 census the membership was pegged at 435 where it has remained.

In 1920 Congress faced the problem of what to do about representation from states having lost population as compared with those with substantial gains. Nothing

was done following the 1920 census. The population of the country had both grown and shifted, but the house membership remained at 435 and the apportionment of members was unchanged. In 1929 however, Congress faced the problem, fought it out, and settled it. In 1930 and 1940 redistribution of the 435 house members to the states was made on the basis of a mathematical procedure known as the method of equal proportions which is called for in the 1929 act. Some states gained members, others lost—but the total remains 435. The same procedure and formula will be followed after the 1950 count.

Applying the equal proportions formula to current population estimates reveals that the three Pacific coast states will gain a total of 10 members in the house. California which now has 23 Congressional districts will have 31; Washington will have 7 instead of 6, and Oregon will gain 1 seat increasing its house delegation of 4 members to 5 after 1951.

Census taking is going on now. The work must be completed in 8 months. During the first week of the next Congress (January, 1951), the allocation of house members to the states will be formalized and the state legislatures notified. Thereupon it will be the duty of the Oregon legislature to re-make present Congressional district boundaries so as to provide 5 districts instead of 4. It is possible for a house member to be elected from the state at large. A few states elected one or more members at large. This practice has been generally discontinued.

add on the taxes he pays on his goods, his licenses, rent and other overhead. By the time a dress is purchased, the consumer pays \$2.20 in taxes on a dress that costs \$7.85.

These taxes cannot be absorbed; they are part of the cost of producing the goods we need, and must be passed on to the ultimate consumer. So it's you, the ultimate consumer, who pays the taxes.

So don't be too unconcerned the next time the administration or congress starts kicking around another idea to pour "just a few billions" down a gopher hole. It's not "them rich fellers with the high income taxes" who foot the bill; it is you. There are a lot more of you than there are rich fellers, and to a politician a dollar apiece from a million persons adds up just as fast as a million dollars from one person.

The Hoover Commission Report has shown the way out of the present situation, where taxes are at an all-time high and growing higher, with a large and mounting deficit at a time of relative prosperity when we should be piling up a surplus for deficit spending in possible hard times to come. If the Hoover Commission's recommendations were adopted, taxes could be reduced by one-third, without curtailment of any present government service—it is government wastage and inefficiency that costs so much. Putting it on a family basis for a moment, if someone handed you a plan under which you could eat steak as often as you do now, live in your present house, go to the movies as often as now, drive the car as much as you do now, enjoy every pleasure and necessity of life that you do now, and still spend one-third less of your income for it—you'd look into it, wouldn't you?

Both major parties have endorsed the findings of the Hoover Commission, but to date neither party has shown much sign of putting the recommendations into actual practice—fine work boys, now go away and don't bother us.

We think it is time for the voters (who are all taxpayers) to begin looking their candidates over critically; asking how they stand on the matter of the Hoover reports and reminding them of their answers once they are in office. Party affiliation doesn't mean a thing; every party is naturally in favor of economy and reduced economy—for the other guy. But if office holders were reminded occasionally that they are expected to do something more about economy than talk, they might remember that there's a time coming when they'll want your vote again.

How Much Do You Owe?

Cave Junction residents will soon see at the Ivy Theatre a 10-minute educational short movie dramatizing the story of the Disabled American Veterans.

The film, titled "How Much Do You Owe?" stars James Stewart, famous motion picture actor, and General Jonathan M. Wainwright, hero of Bataan and Corregidor.

With Jimmy Stewart contributing his services and the entire motion picture industry co-operating to make the film and its distribution possible, movie goers will see a dramatic, alive and realistic presentation of the rehabilitation of the disabled veteran.

The recent 28th national convention of the Disabled American Veterans in Cleveland unanimously adopted a resolution commending the motion picture industry for its contribution and a special citation was awarded Stewart.

The story was written by Col. Owen Crump, well-known Hollywood writer and producer and was directed by Ralph Staub, able Columbia Pictures director.

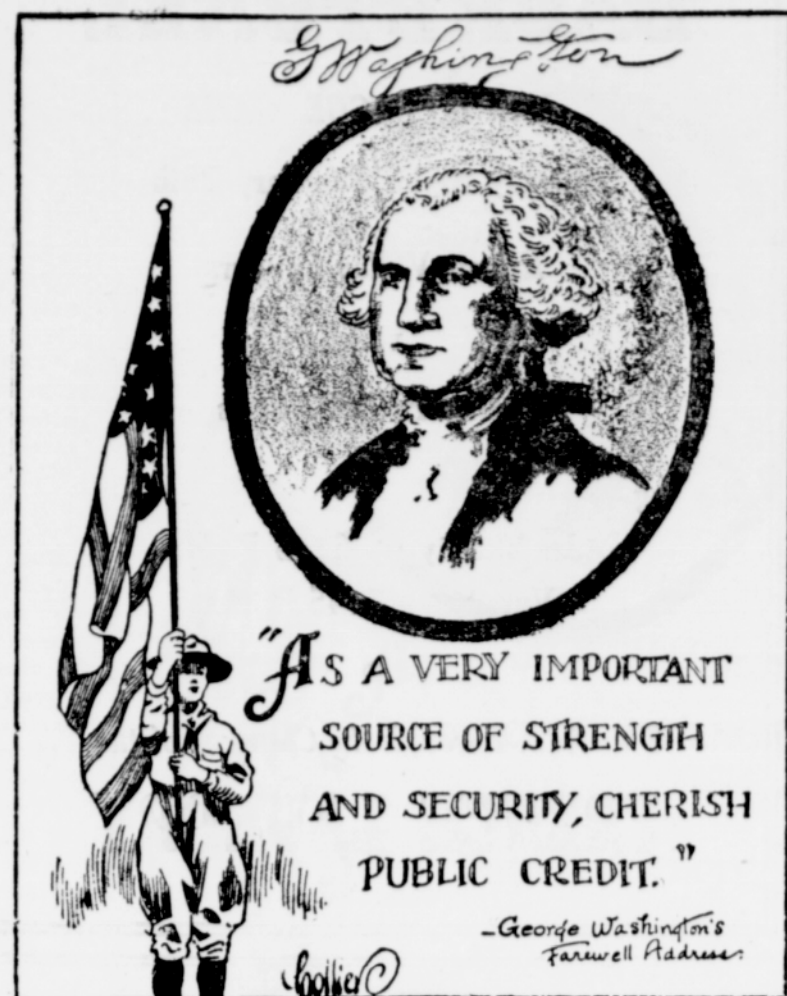
Step by step, through the thread of the plot of the short, is the courageous story of the problem

facing the disabled veteran. A realistic presentation is made of the problems that every community faces and the manner in which the D.A.V. serves.



—Help the Hospital—

FEBRUARY 22, 1950



LETTERS

After publication of our first item regarding the organization of an Illinois Valley bank, we received a very flattering letter from A. A. Rogers, superintendent of banks for the state of Oregon. Sidestepping the dictates of modesty, we publish the letter here to acquaint Valley citizens with Mr. Rogers' appraisal of the situation and his opinion of the services which will be offered by a local bank.

February 14, 1950

Mr. J. C. Abernathy, Editor:

Mr. Clifford Sparks sent me copy of your write-up and editorial concerning the application filed with this department for authority to organize the Illinois Valley Bank.

I wish to compliment you on both the news story and your editorial, and believe that the people of the Illinois Valley have been given a word picture of what banking service, owned and managed by their local people, can do for their community.

After my visit to Cave Junction I believe that the new bank will receive the wholehearted support of all your people and that the new bank will be a credit to the state of Oregon.

Sincerely yours,

A. A. Rogers,
Supt. of Banks

Easter Seal Sale Begins On March Ninth

Josephine county's chairman for the annual Easter Seal sale by the Oregon Society for Crippled Children and Adults will be Donald H. Coulter of 112 1/2-S., Sixth St., Grants Pass, according to an announcement received from Jesse Rosenbaum of LaGrande, society president.

Rosenbaum said the sale, the fourth sponsored by the society in Oregon, will be held from March 9 through Easter Sunday, April 9. More than 400,000 residents of the state will receive Easter seals through the mail, he stated.

In announcing Coulter's appointment, Rosenbaum urged the people of Josephine county to support the sale, stating that "the funds derived from Easter Seals will do much to assist the physi-

Obey These Three Rules

Drivers who misunderstand or fail to obey three basic rules of the road are responsible for more than half of Oregon's traffic accidents, Secretary of State Earl T. Newberry estimated today.

Despite a common belief that traffic laws vary widely from state to state, these three rules are virtually the same across the nation, the secretary said. He pointed out that violators lucky enough to escape injury may still be liable for damage to others.

Te listed the three rules as follows:

Intersection Rule: If two cars are arriving at an uncontrolled intersection (no stop signs or signals) at about the same time, the car on the right always has the right-of-way. Two out of five Oregon accidents occur at intersections.

Following Rule: If you run into the rear of another car, you are always at fault. It doesn't matter that the car ahead stopped suddenly or that the driver failed to signal. He may have had no opportunity, and the law requires that you drive far enough behind to be ready for any emergency. After failure to have right-of-way, following too closely is the most frequent single Oregon traffic violation.

Speed Rule: Speed must be adjusted regardless of posted or designated speed limits, which are considered maximum for ideal conditions. If traffic is heavy or the roadway is slippery, you may be charged with driving too fast for conditions even though you did not exceed the apparent legal limits. On rural highways without posted speeds, the "reasonable and prudent" rule still applies. Excessive speed is responsible for one out of four traffic fatalities in Oregon.

cally handicapped persons of the state, adults as well as children."

"There are thousands of crippled children and adults in Oregon who need the help from Easter Seals because they are not eligible for assistance from any other agency, public or private," Rosenbaum said. "The society is not interested in whether a child or adult's condition is the result of an accident or any one of more than 200 crippling diseases, but only in whether the person needs assistance and cannot obtain it, the president reported."



From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

How to Get That Homework Done

Miss Gilbert, our grammar school principal, spoke the other night at the regular Parent-Teachers' meeting, on getting children to do their homework when they want to listen to the radio.

"We musn't give them a flat 'no,'" Miss Gilbert said. "If we adults really believe in tolerance and moderation, we should instill these qualities in our children. Listening to the radio is fine—in moderation—as long as homework gets done, too."

From where I sit, the lady was dead-right. This radio vs. home-

work problem is a wonderful way to see to it that our youngsters acquire the sensible moderate habits they'll need later on.

I've never believed in hard and fast rules—except where absolutely necessary. Let the other fellow do as he likes, as long as he's temperate and tolerant. Guess that's why I've never felt we should quarrel with the fellow who is partial to a glass of beer—the "Beverage of Moderation."

Joe Marsh