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# The Athena Press

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ATHENA, UMATILLA COUNTY, OREGON, JULY 31, 1931

VOLUME 44\*

NUMBER 31

## COUNTY TAX LEAGUE READY FOR WORK

### Favor Revision of Budgets to Secure 20 Per Cent Slice in Tax.

One of the largest gatherings of tax payers that ever attended a taxpayer's meeting in Umatilla county, convened at Pendleton Saturday at the call of the county committee of the state Tax Conservation League.

The result of the Pendleton meeting was the organization of the Umatilla County Tax Conservation and Equalization League with Mac Hoke of Pendleton, as its president; M. L. Watts of Athena, vice-president, and B. B. Richards of Athena, as secretary-treasurer.

A general cut of 20 per cent in taxes is the reduction for which the league will bend its efforts to secure and that it believes in trimming where it finds trimming to be necessary, is seen in its request that where budgets and levies have already been agreed upon (mostly in school districts) that such budgets be reconsidered and levies reduced.

Work of changing grades and curves on existing roads should be suspended, in the leagues opinion, and only new work absolutely necessary should be undertaken at this time.

In the matter of salaries the league points out that the dollar of today has a purchasing power equal to \$1.42 five years ago and it urges that salaries generally be adjusted to conform with basic prices.

The league has an executive committee of 21 members, appointed by the president and representing five districts. Athena, Adams, Helix and Weston with contiguous territory is given six members.

The resolutions adopted are as follows:

Be it Resolved, That officials of tax spending bodies charged with the expenditure of tax moneys shall adhere strictly to the proposed expenditures as set out in their budgets or estimate of costs and in no case shall expenditures for the budget year exceed the total of such budget or of any individual item thereof.

Resolved, That all tax levying bodies of Umatilla County which have already submitted their budgets for the ensuing year be requested to withdraw such budget and reconsider the same eliminating all possible items and postponing, at least for the present, any anticipated expansion or betterment program, in line with recommendation and resolution calling for at least a 20 per cent reduction under the budget for the preceding year.

Resolved, That all of the tax levying bodies of Umatilla County be requested to cut their budgets, now being or shortly to be considered, 20 per cent in furtherance of tax conservation program adopted by the State Committee at Salem.

Be it Resolved, That no further expenditures be made for the present, at least, for the purpose of changing grades and curves on existing roads and limiting new construction to roads absolutely necessary for adequate communication between the various centers.

Be it Resolved, The County Court is requested not to approve the formation of new special road districts.

Whereas, The purchasing power of the dollar today is equal to \$1.42 five years ago. We request that salaries generally be adjusted to conform with the basic prices of the products of our farms and stock industries and industrial activities generally at the present time.

Be it Resolved by the Umatilla County Taxpayers Equalization and Conservation League we commend Gov. Julius L. Meier, Governor of the State of Oregon, for his earnest effort in his endeavor to reduce the taxes in the State of Oregon and the municipalities within the state.

**The Hoosier Picnic**  
The Hoosier picnic as announced in The Press last week, will take place at Milton Sunday. The dinner is scheduled for 1 o'clock and all Hoosiers and their families are asked to bring well-filled baskets and a big table will be set family style. A program will be arranged and sports will be a feature of the afternoon.

**George Ludwigs Passes**  
George Ludwigs, who has been in the jewelry business at Walla Walla since 1890, died at 5:30 p. m., Saturday, following an illness of two weeks. Although he had been in ill health for years, he worked in Ludwigs' jewelry store up to two weeks ago.

**He Takes Car Thieves**  
Bert Nation, deputy sheriff at Hermiston is a terror to automobile thieves. In the past ten days he has arrested five.

## Yields of Fifty Bushels Common Athena Report

Fifty bushel per acre yields are common reports in Athena as harvest operations in this district progress toward the end of a perfect season's run, in which not one hour has been lost on account of weather. While everyone else fought shy of warm weather the harvest outfits welcomed high temperature for the reason that hot days served to make the grain thresh well.

No large fire loss in grain fields of the county has been experienced this season, which is in contrast with conditions in this respect in Walla Walla and Whitman counties, where an excessive amount of smut has been the cause of hundreds of acres of standing grain being burned.

A constant stream of trucks loaded with bulk grain have been making their way this week to the scales of the Preston-Shaffer Milling company and the Farmers Grain Elevator company. At the latter place, stated Manager Wilson, an average of 365 truck loads of wheat have been handled daily.

No sales are being reported at the prices offered for the new crop wheat. In Chicago Tuesday the market tumbled down to 50 1-4 cents, equaling the all-time low price record for future delivery.

**Harvest Notes**  
A field of 170 acres on the Lila Kirk ranch averaged a little better than 50 bushels per acre.

Marion Hansell's home place north of town, always a good producer, netted him 55 bushels per acre from a field of 300 acres.

Arnold Wood, farming the Dell 80 west of town, reports a yield of 50 bushels.

Glenn Dudley had a good crop south of town. The folks down at the elevator tell The Press that he cropped 55 bushels, but Glenn did not confirm it.

Dean Dudley's field west of town averaged 44 bushels per acre.

Aniel Schubert is said to be satisfied with a 50 bushel yield.

George Sheard reports to The Press that he took a 48 bushel yield from 260 acres. George performed a daddo contraption with which he operated the elevation of his header in connection with his other duties as separator tender. All George had to do—as usual—was to pull a little lever and the combine engine did the work.

John Walker's 75-acre field just south of the city limits, turned out 50 bushels to the acre.

O. H. Reeder was in town Wednesday from his farm west of Adams. He reported a good yield with harvesting ending this week.

McBride Bros., big harvest outfit completed threshing 400 acres of grain on the Mrs. Lumsden ranch on Dry Creek, after a run of 10 days, counting 40 acres per day. The crop amounted to approximately 8,000 bushels.

**Seed Company Installs  
Unique Cooling System**  
The 40 women and girls employed in the pea cleaning and grading plant of the Washington-Idaho Seed company on West Main street, are working in quarters considerably cooler because of the recent installation of a unique cooling and ventilating system.

The air is taken fresh from outdoors and by two electric fans is forced into the operating room through a series of cool, water-soaked wicks.

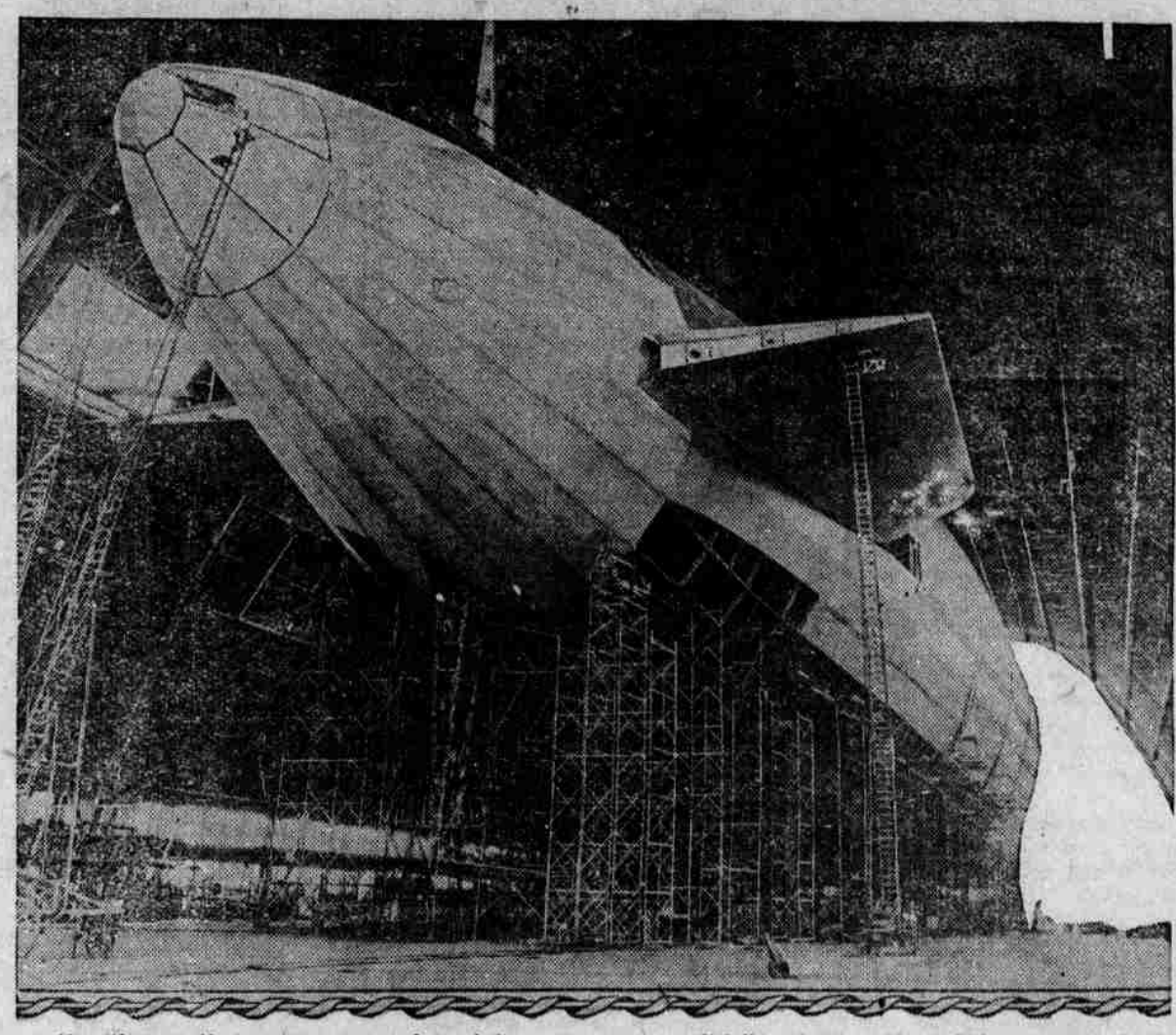
The result is that temperature in the room is reduced several degrees by a cool, moist air circulation. However, even with the installation of the cooling system, the 40 electric light bulbs over the machines still leaves the big room plenty warm on days such as these.

**May Raise Money**  
The law enacted at the 1931 legislative session which requires that estates and relatives of persons committed to the state hospitals for the insane and state home for the feeble-minded shall contribute to the support of such charges will return to the state approximately \$300,000 during the biennium, according to figures prepared.

**Burglars Given Terms**  
Arthur C. Smith and Ray Parr, transients, were sentenced to serve three and two years, respectively in the state penitentiary after they had pleaded guilty of burglary, not in a dwelling, before Judge Sweek Wednesday. The pair confessed they had broken into a Union Pacific tool house at Hermiston.

**To Help Water Users**  
Coming to the rescue of farmers west of Freewater, who are in dire straits for irrigating water due to the drought, Milton water users are restricting themselves to eight hours per day, from 5 to 9 a. m., and from 5 to 9 p. m. The saving will materially aid in irrigation on farms.

## Nearly Ready to Be Christened by Mrs. Hoover



Mrs. Herbert Hoover has consented to christen the new navy dirigible Akron at Akron, Ohio, on August 8. The airship, biggest in the world, is nearing completion at the plant of the Goodyear-Zeppelin corporation. The photograph shows it as the giant fins were being attached.

### Pendleton Blankets to Deck Olympic Cabins

Portland.—Four thousand Pendleton blankets have been ordered by the Los Angeles Olympic Village of three-room cabins being erected for the accommodation of participants in the 1932 games. Announcement of the order was made by C. C. Wintermute, general sales manager for the Pendleton Woolen Mills.

The blankets will be standard Pendleton material, and similar in design to those supplied to Yellowstone National park hotels. They will be of single-bed size, white with colored borders.

Many woolen manufacturers competed for the order, owing to the advertising value that would come from having their label attached to the blankets, and the Pendleton mill was awarded the contract because the quality and colors were considered superior to those of other manufacturers, Mr. Wintermute said.

It was understood by Pendleton officials that the Olympic organization will allow participants in the games to purchase the blankets at cost when the games are concluded.

Samples of the blankets will be displayed at the members' forum of the Portland Chamber of Commerce next Monday, Mr. Wintermute announced.

### Four Heat Victims Are Found on Lonely Sonora Mexico, Desert Highway

A newspaper dispatch from Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, gives an account of four persons who died from the heat on the Sonora desert about five days ago in a futile effort to reach civilization after a stage they were traveling on was disabled 250 miles west of there.

Numbered among the dead was 16-year-old Rufina M. de Ojeda of Nogales, and her 45-day-old baby, Consuela. Mrs. Ojeda's body was almost nude. The child was pressed to her breast in a death hold.

Two brothers, Jesus and Ramon Orantes of Nogales, were the other victims. They were found several miles from where Mrs. Ojeda's body was discovered.

Augustin Pinto of Mexicali, who found the bodies, buried the dead in unmarked graves along the lonely desert road. Continuing his journey to Sonito, Sonora, from Mexicali, Pinto came upon three men—the survivors of six passengers and a driver who left by stage for Mexicali, July 20.

The three, Vicente Gutierrez of Nogales, driver of the stage; his son, Vicente, Jr., and Juan Ojeda, husband of the dead woman and father of the child, were taken to Sonito hospital in a critical condition.

The short, tragic story of the desert drama—a fight against certain death—was related to Rafael Montes, Sonito Mexican immigration officer, and Pinto by the survivors.

The stage was disabled 150 miles west of Sonito. Efforts to repair it were vain, and the seven, without food or water, started the trek over the desert to Sonito.

They had walked, it was believed, about four days when death overtook the mother and her baby. Several miles further, the two brothers dropped beside the road.

### Heat Searns California, Imperial Valley Dead, 40

July is setting an all-time heat record, the California weather bureau reveals. Forty years ago, a long hot spell pushed the average mean temperature for the month to 72 degrees. This month the protracted heat wave has added six degrees to the average normal temperature.

In the west, 78 deaths have marked the rise in the mercury and weather forecasters saw little immediate relief in sight. Forty of the heat deaths occurred in Imperial valley, where the population was in exodus and reduced to those few who must remain in the fertile, sub-sea level area.

The 25-day temperature average in Imperial valley had been 108 degrees. In Phoenix, Ariz., Needles and Taft, Cal., and Las Vegas, N. M., there were 17 deaths from the heat. The others were widely scattered. Utah had one death.

In the northwest it has been cooler, virtually the only region afforded relief. The heat wave rolled across the Rocky mountains on to the plains, but Kansas City's forecast gave hopes of cessation of its progress in that area.

### State School Questions Up at Annual Conference

Salem.—County superintendents of schools will hold their annual conference with the state department of education here the first three days of next week. C. A. Howard, state superintendent of schools, announced this week. The meeting will be a joint session of the state association with the department, at which the year's educational program will be outlined.

School finances will be one of the major subjects discussed, in view of the recent move for tax reduction, Howard said. Other subjects up for consideration before the 56 county officials include care of district owned textbooks, as the result of the free textbook provision of the state law; county school organization, discussed by Representative Hector MacPherson; plans in lieu of eighth grade examinations, junior Red Cross institute themes, teacher rating cards, supervisory reports and new elementary courses of study.

Governor Meier will speak Monday morning followed by C. A. Howard.

### Oregon Schedules Way From Home Gridirons

Playing seven to nine scheduled games away from home, University of Oregon with a 13,000 mile itinerary arranged, will be one of the traveling football aggregations this season.

Two trips to Los Angeles to meet the Southern California Trojans and the southern branch of the University of California and jaunts to New York City, Portland, Seattle, Grand Forks, N. D., and San Francisco are on the schedule.

November 7 remains the only open date between September 26 and November 26.

### Milwaukee Slashes Rates

To aid drought stricken regions in Montana, the Chicago Milwaukee St. Paul & Pacific railway has established reduced emergency rates on livestock feeds, hay and straw from South Dakota and tributary points to all counties of Montana east of Harlow town.

### Meadow Creek Fire

A small fire was reported Wednesday in the Umatilla national forest in the Meadow Creek district. Eight men were sent to combat the fire.

### Only Two Are Left

With the passing recently of William Blakeley, only two pioneers who fought the Indians at Willow Springs, remain alive. The two are T. D. (Doc) Ferguson and Andrew Sullivan, both of Pendleton. Until recent years Mr. Sullivan conducted a stock ranch and was postmaster at Starkey Prairie.

## Charles Potter in Collapse of Grain Elevator

Charles Potter, 56, who for several years has been conducting a small farm north of Athena, met death by suffocation Friday before noon, when an elevator building at Waterman Station collapsed and buried him and another man underneath timbers and wheat.

Mr. Potter was on the outside of the building sacking hog feed in company with an employe of Alex McIntyre, when without warning the wooden grain elevator collapsed, burying the two men. Mr. Potter was underneath timbers and grain at the bottom when found by willing workers summoned from harvest fields near by, and when removed was dead. The elevator workman, while completely covered by grain, managed to extricate himself uninjured.

While men were at work removing the timbers and grain, Dr. McKinney was summoned and arrived at Waterman about the time the body was recovered. The remains were brought to Dr. McKinney's office in Athena and in the afternoon were taken to Walla Walla, where funeral services were held Monday afternoon.

Mr. Potter was the son of Charlie Potter, noted stage driver, who drove between Walla Walla and Pendleton before the coming of the railroad. He was born in Walla Walla, October 22, 1874, moving to Athena five years ago. Besides his widow, Ellen F. Potter, he is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Harry Riffe of Walla Walla and Mrs. Harry Brown of Auburn, Wash. He was a member of the Walla Walla lodge, Loyal Order of Moose.

## LEGISLATORS DO NOT FAVOR SESSION

### Poll of Lawmakers Finds Majority in Opposition at This Time.

Robert C. Notson, writing for the Morning Oregonian, says neither a special session of the legislature to consider tax matters nor the Indiana plan for the control of local budgets and levies are in favor with the members of the Oregon legislature. This was indicated definitely as the final returns were received in the poll conducted by The Oregonian.

The adverse trend noted in the early replies received has been maintained through the later expressions received from the legislators, whom Governor Meier indicated he would consult with reference to the calling of a session and the program to be considered. Expressions of approval of the efforts of the chief executive and of the Oregon Taxpayers' Equalization league in urging the idea of retrenchment and reduction in taxes were numerous, but the opinion was strong that this might better be accomplished by the force of public opinion than by statute.

The final tabulation of the ballots revealed the following aggregate views, as expressed by 63 members of the senate and house:

Special session: For, 4; against, 28; conditionally for, 10; conditionally against, 16; prefer to leave decision to the governor, 5.

Indiana plan: For, 4; against, 20; conditionally for, 8; conditionally against, 18; undecided, 13.

Limiting session to tax matters only: For, 12; against, 21; for a limit but not an absolute one, 30.

The questions asked the members were:

1. Do you favor a special session?
2. Do you favor enactment of the Indiana plan?
3. Do you favor confining the work of the session, if one is called, to tax legislation?

### Fires Under Control

All forest fires in the Medford section are reported to be under control. Forty men still patrol the Applegate district where fire burned over about 200 acres of fine timber.

### Wheat Crop Poor

Reports coming from Wyoming, Montana and Idaho agree that the wheat crops in those states are poor and far below the average yield of last year.

### J. A. Murray Goes Up to Post of General Manager

For the period of 28 years with the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company, 14 years of which he has been manager of the Pendleton district, J. A. Murray has been made manager for the Eastern Oregon district. Mr. Murray will continue to make Pendleton his headquarters.

The district is a new one and includes the Baker, Pendleton, Bend and The Dalles area. The appointment comes with much pleasure to the many friends of Mr. Murray, who during his long years of service with the company, have held him in high esteem and respect.

Aside from giving patrons of his company eminent satisfaction, Mr. Murray has won lasting friendship of many high school boys of this section through his interest in their athletic endeavors. A number through his personal influence have gone on to University of Oregon and made good.

Activities of the company until recently centered in Portland. The new system is being inaugurated to better the company's service from a business standpoint and to improve its relations with customers and the public.

### Killed Elk; Acquitted

Jasper Hovgaard, Seaside farmer, will escape the legal penalties the state sought to impose on him for killing an elk that invaded his fields. A jury in justice court took but five minutes to acquit Hovgaard on a charge of wanton waste of a game animal. Hovgaard killed the animal after repeated protests about elks damaging his crops had brought no relief from game authorities.

### Farmer Burns Up Oats

Edward Hgerbert Illinois farmer, set fire to 75 acres of oats on his farm after harvesting about five acres he found he could get only 11 cents a bushel for grain which he said cost him 40 cents to raise. So the rest went in to smoke to avoid adding 4 cents more a bushel for harvesting and threshing.

### Corn Up 10 Cents

Drouth, grasshoppers and heat conspired with a shortage of grain to cause a sudden jump of 10 cents a bushel in the price of July corn on the Chicago Board of Trade Wednesday. Word came from Northwestern Iowa and parts of other grain states that corn had started to fire and that the crop was in peril. Other places reported corn was in good condition. July corn touched 68 1/2 cents at the highest and closed at 67 1/2.

### Slow Wheat Delivery Delays River Shipment

The Dalles.—Slow delivery of wheat from fields on ranches of Balfour Guthrie & Company in Gilliam county is delaying the steamer Umatilla in coming here from Portland for the grain cargo. The Columbia & Willamette Towing company, which has negotiated for the river transportation of tonnage from the Balfour Guthrie company ranch, has constructed a large plank platform on the river side here, and the wheat is stacked there awaiting arrival of the steamer.

Only three trucks are being operated to the Gilliam county ranches, about 75 miles from here. Independent ranchers here declare they cannot take advantage of river transportation inducements because of inability to obtain warehouse accommodations in Portland.

### New Home Plan Urged

Consolidation of the State university at Eugene with the Oregon State college at Corvallis, and the sale of the university property to the government at a low price for use as a national soldiers' home, was suggested at Salem by a prominent southern Oregon man, as a means of solving the controversy involving the location of the federal institution.

### Signing Tax Pact

More than 200 farmers of Walla Walla county, including the heaviest taxpayers, have signed an agreement to pay no taxes for two years unless taxes are reduced at least 25 per cent or the price of farm products increases at least 50 per cent.

### Big Cougar Killed

A cougar seven feet from tip to tip that had been killing many goats along the Lorane highway was killed Sunday eight miles out of Eugene. The cougar had been committing depredations for two months.

### River Lower Than Ever

Lower by one foot than it was a year ago, the Columbia river at The Dalles stood at the 95-foot mark. Last year a record low stage was reached, and sandbars were revealed that never before were seen.