

Sherman County Journal

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PUBLIC HEARINGS

This week there was held a large number of public hearings of subjects ranging from the Columbia river bridge bill to unemployment compensation. In the state senate there was a similar number of these hearings. The feeling among legislators is practically unanimous that public hearings add nothing to the legislative process except to increase the length of time of the session. They are, however, valuable from a political point of view and this, more than anything else, is the reason for them.

Those who speak at public hearings very, very seldom bring any new information to the legislative committee that could not be imparted more quickly and less oratorically in an ordinary committee meeting or be obtained from the reading of reports. There is no little stage setting for a large public hearing. The committee sits with as much dignity as its individual members can muster on a rostrum before the assemblage. The chairman divides the time with a show of impartiality between the pros and cons, giving time for rebuttal and the show is on. Often, especially if the question is one to arouse the emotions instead of sober intellectual processes the speakers shout and wave arms in an effort to impress that is sometimes amusing. Smoke hangs above the crowd and the heat of assembled humans soon overcomes the minds of the committee until they sag in their chairs, smoke incessantly and wait impatiently for the final word.

From the point of politics and maybe from the theory of practical democracy public hearings are of value. The chairman has a chance to put himself in a favorable position and demonstrate fairness and interest in both sides. Defeated partisans feel much better if they have had a chance to be heard and often a public hearing on some measure doomed to defeat is but the echo of a condemned man's last words before sentence is pronounced, the last statement of one being led to the gallows.

SCHOOL TAX EQUALIZATION

House bill 420, introduced last week, might well cause consternation in Sherman county if it was generally read and if its passage through the house and senate was considered likely. It provides for a tax sufficient to provide a fund of \$20 for each census child. The tax would be an annual state tax in addition to all other taxes. It would be something of a supplement to the present elementary tax which raises \$10 per child.

Sherman county voters who as recently as last year refused to sanction a move that would have equalized school taxes over the county may be surprised if the bill is passed by the people that would equalize such taxes over the state.

Sherman county has some \$17,000 of taxable property per school child. The average in the state is around \$5500. When equalization is put into effect we would be educating nearly three children in other counties for one of our own—or to the extent of \$20 each at least.

The bill appears to be hastily drawn and to have received too little thought before introduction. It contains many things that do not appear on the surface to be of the best interest of school children, for instance, the section giving suspended districts a part of the fund.

To be frank on the matter the school system of Oregon is so obsolete, so inefficient from an organization and financial standpoint, that attempts to change the method of paying for it should all fail until the entire system has been put on a more efficient basis. The method of transporting pupils, or not doing it, the old system of paying districts, on occasion, more than they need from state and county funds are all bad.

Perhaps nothing can be done about it from a practical point of view because of hide bound notions that will prevail as long as their owners. It is a fact that schools have taken little advantage of modern transportation methods. It is true that in many cases schools have done nothing to educate pupils in the things needed by the coming generation. It is true that the geographical divisions of a past generation are still honored by continuance.

Why the state or any other governmental agency should make plans for financial support of such a system without reforming the system at the same time is a question as yet unanswered.

In Other Days

Observer, February 17, 1922

Dr. C. L. Poley reports that the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Peters was made happy at six o'clock Friday morning, February 17th, by the arrival of a fine 113 pound daughter.

Johnny Shearer and Robert Hoskinson left for Portland Wednesday on a pleasure jaunt of a couple of weeks.

Mrs. J. C. Freeman left Wednesday for Tulsa, Oklahoma, where her mother suffered a paralytic stroke.

Tonight, Friday the 17th, the Moro girls are fighting against The Dalles girls in The Dalles. It will be some little honor to cop the victory.

Observer February 14, 1902

The silver wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Mowry was celebrated last evening. The event was a great surprise, carefully planned and executed by their daughter, Miss Ida.

Hon. W. P. Keady and Hon. H. V. Gates have returned from a pleasant trip to Lakeview. They passed through the small pox belt safely by taking frequent carbolic acid baths and fumigations.

Angus Kuks, H. S. Singer and W. S. Miller purchased guns last week of the Moro Implement Co. Jack Rabbits in winter and coyotes in summer will be scarce.

Mrs. W. P. Wycoff has started a first class restaurant in the store building of Bressler & McCaleb. Moro has needed a restaurant for some time past and will be liberally patronized by visitors to our little city.

Observer February 16, 1912

The Moro cornet band perfected its organization Friday evening adopting a constitution and by-laws and electing the following officers: J. F. Foss, president; W. A. Raymond, vice president; W. D. Wallan, treasurer; W. C. Bryant, secretary; E. E. Barzee, leader; I. K. Axtell, assistant leader.

Farmers of the section surrounding Moro entertained their city friends to a sumptuous feast in Rudolf opera house February 9th. Speakers of the evening were Rev. A. J. Adams, W. F. Jackson, Mayor O. J. Goffin, Fred Messinger, George Simon, T. S. Townsend of Portland, Mr. Bonny of Tygh Valley, A. E. Moretz, County Clerk McPherson, Postmaster J. M. Parry, L. Barnum, W. H. Ragsdale, and Fred Hennagin. At the close of the program souvenir spoons were presented. Vocal and instrumental music were given by local talent, as well as two good recitations by Fred Hennagin.

Statehouse Gossip

(Continued from page one)

the current session to receive the signature of Governor Sprague was senate bill No. 4 by Senator McKay repealing the non-resident motor vehicle registration law. Under its provisions tourists who visit this state will no longer be required to register their cars. The repeal was recommended by Secretary of State Earl Snell who declared that it cost the state \$20,000 a year to administer the law which had outlived its usefulness.

The problem of more adequate pensions for the state's needy aged is receiving much attention at the hands of the Oregon lawmakers this session.

Bills already introduced contain at least half a dozen proposals for raising additional funds for this purpose. Latest of these proposals involves a special tax to be paid by patrons of public service utilities—electric, telephone, water, gas, etc. Proponents of this plan would add eight percent to the monthly bills of the utility patrons, the revenue from this source—estimated at between \$1,750,000 and \$2,500,000 a year—to go into the old age pension fund.

Another measure, sponsored by the Oregon Old Age Pension Federation would levy what amounts to a poll tax upon every resident of the state, based upon the individual's income but in no case to be less than \$6 a year. One of the

first old age pension measures introduced calls for a corporation dividend tax of three per cent, and Representative Frank Lonergan is backing a bill that calls for a two per cent tax on gross revenues, all for the aid of the needy aged.

County judges and commissioners were in Salem this week to compose a measure introduced by Senator Dorothy Lee of Multnomah calling for a change in the method of handling insane cases. The Lee bill would transfer responsibility for the custody of the insane persons from the sheriff's office to that of the county health officer. It would also require that two physicians be called in to pass on sanity cases. The reform, it was pointed out, would work a great hardship on some of the more sparsely settled counties, especially those with only one physician which would necessitate the calling in of outside physicians at great expense to the taxpayers.

The Gibson-Jones bill providing for a consumers tax of 15 per cent to be levied against all patrons of electric utilities in Oregon is drawing a lot of fire from centers served by municipally owned power and light plants which are now tax exempt. Under the Gibson-Jones bill electric utilities would be relieved of present ad valorem taxes, the saving thus realized to be passed on to consumers in the form of rate reductions, which in turn would be absorbed in the new consumer's tax. This tax would apply to patrons of municipally owned utilities as well as to those who are served by privately owned utilities.

Considerable interest attaches to attempts to tax trucks and busses for support of general governmental activities. In Governor Sprague's message to the legislature at the opening of the session called attention to the fact that busses and trucks now pay no general taxes, that all of the license and fees extracted from these commercial carriers go into the construction and maintenance of the highways which makes their operation possible. The governor suggested that the legislature should either move to capture the gross revenue tax now paid by these operators for the state's general fund, or to levy some new tax that could be used for general governmental purposes. The House and Senate committees on highways and highway revenue and assessment and taxation are giving serious consideration to the problem but as yet have agreed on no program that appears to cover the situation.

Dean Walker, Polk county senator, enjoyed the unique experience this week of serving in the dual capacity of president of the state senate and governor of Oregon, an experience without precedent in Oregon. Walker, senate president, became governor when Governor Sprague went to Denver to attend a conference of western governors on state's rights over non-navigable streams, a field which the federal government now threatens to invade in the New Deal's search for more power.



By John W. Kelly

(Continued from page one)
Colorado and have agreed to oppose an "authority" west of the Rocky mountains. Personally, Secretary of the Interior Ickes wants the power concentrated in his office, but not in a commission of three men. This is one of the controversies in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

War department changed its mind about awarding a contract for the air corps base at Pendleton later on and decided to dispose of it. The air corps wishes to have the work completed early in order to locate the various units there when planes are available. This will be the last of the air bases constructed under the present program. WPA will build the new airport at Coos Bay, which has been approved by the president. The amount for the job is estimated at \$350,000. The navy department intimates that Astoria will have an opportunity to build some small wooden boats. An authorization bill has been introduced by Senator Holman for \$500,000 for a laboratory to use electricity in testing formulas for ore deposits in the northwest.

COUNTY CLERK'S ANNUAL REPORT OF FEES COLLECTED AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE SAME, Jan. 1, to Dec. 31, 1940

TOTAL OF ALL FEES COLLECTED	\$1681.15
Less Migratory Liens-remitted to Sec of State	\$ 72.50
Less Litigant Fees-remitted to State Treasurer	40.00
Less Divorce Fees-remitted to State Treasurer	25.00
Less Refund of fees	2.75
Less Amount paid to County Treasurer	1540.90
	\$1681.15 \$1681.15

Respectfully submitted, Ross Ornduff, County Clerk.

CLERK'S ANNUAL REPORT OF DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD January 1, 1940 to December 31, 1940.

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
COUNTY COURT	
County Judge's Salary	\$ 900.00
Judge's Expenses	165.72
Commissioner's fees and mileage	433.00
CIRCUIT COURT	
Witnesses and jurors fees	413.70
Reporter's fees	10.00
Meals for Jurors	8.10
Bailiff's fees	14.00
JUSTICE COURT	
Justice Court and expenses	44.78
DISTRICT ATTORNEY	
District Attorney's expenses	145.74
COUNTY AGENT	
County Agent's Office	1850.00
COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE	
County Assessor's Salary	1800.00
Field Assessor's Salary	375.00
Rolls, detail sheets, etc.	441.55
Office Help	305.00
COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE	
County Clerk's Office	1519.20
Deputy Clerk's Salary	1093.85
Incidental Expense	270.58
Record books and blanks	244.50
Filing Cabinet	283.70
COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	
County Sheriff's Salary	1800.00
Deputy Sheriff's Salary	1500.00
Traveling Expenses	420.00
Incidental Office Expense	504.10
State Industrial Accident Commission	60.02
County School Superintendent's Office	1500.00
School Superintendent's Salary	300.00
Traveling Expenses	318.32
Incidental Expense	600.00
Office Help	
County Treasurer's Office	
County Treasurer's Salary	900.00
Record books and blanks	57.75
HEALTH OFFICERS	
County Health Officer	300.00
Expenses County Health Officer	-3.75
County Health Nurse	741.28
CORONER	
Coroner's fees and expenses	23.05
ELECTIONS	
Clerk's and Judges	644.43
Ballots, Primary and General Elections	285.75
Booths	100.00
Ballot Boxes and registration	16.16
COUNTY FAIR	
Insurance on County Fairgrounds	247.20
County Fair	1500.00
COUNTY SCHOOLS	
County School Library	57.30
4-H Club Fair	500.00
County Teacher's Institute	80.03
COURTHOUSE EXPENSES	
Janitor's Salary	900.00
Expenses: Lights, water, fuel, phones, repairs, furniture etc	1731.91
COUNTY JAIL	
Board of Prisoners, etc.,	31.94
County Printing	259.05
INSANE AND FEEBLE MINDED	
Examination, expenses, transportation, etc.	21.80
RELIEF OF DEPENDENTS	
General Assistance	1520.55
Old Age Assistance	2539.60
Blind Assistance	102.80
Aid to Dependent Children	281.40
MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS	
Miscellaneous items not budgeted:	
Federal owned lands in lieu of taxes	\$ 4.00
Association of Oregon County Dues	72.08
Burrell Murder Case	100.00
Taxes on Shiel Property	23.24
Special Election	417.91
Transportation in cases	
re: C. C. Wilson and Roy Wells	37.80
Well at Fairgrounds	778.35
Bangs Diseased Cattle	45.00
Burial Expenses	56.00
Registration for Selective Service Draft	80.00
Booth at Pacific International Stock Show	100.00
Expenses to Clerk's Convention	7.70
Sherman County Bid on S.C.S. Buildings at Fairground	60.00
	\$1782.08 1782.08
Auditing County Books	285.00
Scaler of Weights and Measures	45.12
Premiums on officers bonds	375.00
DeMoss Memorial Park	108.23

Insurance on Court house and Experiment Station	293.55
Bureau of Biological Survey	600.00
Expenses of Government Trapper	188.46
White Shield Home of Salvation Army	50.00
Boys' and Girls' Aid Society	50.00
Louise Home	50.00
Waverly Baby Home	50.00
Volunteers of America Home	50.00
Cost of Delinquent Tax Foreclosure	10.00
Advertisement of Wheat League Association	30.00
Total General Fund	\$34,134.02
Total Roads and Highways	38,681.65
Total Law Library Fund	198.50
TOTAL ALL WARRANTS WRITTEN	\$73,014.17

EXPENDITURES BY MONTHS

January	\$ 6,020.62
February	4,223.61
March	4,263.29
April	10,345.48
May	15,738.07
June	5,106.36
July	3,647.97
August	4,516.59
September	6,013.62
October	4,373.48
November	4,803.77
December	3,962.31
TOTAL	\$73,014.17

This report is based upon the records of all warrants written in the office of the County Clerk. I hereby certify that this report is true and correct. Dated January 18, 1941. Respectfully submitted, Ross Ornduff, County Clerk.

CLERK'S ANNUAL REPORT OF DISBURSEMENTS MADE AGAINST THE ROAD FUND FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 1940 to DECEMBER 31, 1940.

Salary of Roadmaster and Laborers	\$ 9,606.65
Salaries—Machine Shed Construction	1,154.90
State Industrial Accident Comm.—General Roads	311.67
State Industrial Accident Commission—Machine Shed Construction	43.57
National Hospital Association—General Roads	124.00
Gasoline and Oil	2,845.28
Explosives	582.24
Lumber, bridge material and posts	709.88
Road Machinery	10,258.60
Cement, steel and culverts	2,002.82
Machine Shed, exclusive of labor	1,630.03
Real Estate purchased for machine shed locations	92.00
Rent of Machine Shed—Wasco	40.00
Road right-of-way	383.20
Gravel, sand and crushed rock	4,750.75
Repair of machinery, road supplies, machinery hire, maintenance, etc.,	4,146.06
	\$38,681.65

This report is prepared from and based upon the records of this office and I believe the same to be true and correct. Dated January 18th, 1941. Respectfully submitted, Ross Ornduff, County Clerk.

CLERK'S REPORT OF OVER-DRAFTS UNDER-BUDGET EXPENDITURES, ETC., for 1940.

Account	Amount Budgeted	Amount Expended	1940	Emergency Act. Funds over drawn	Other Disposition	not used
COUNTY COURT						
County Judge's Salary	\$900.00	\$ 900.00				
Judge's Expense	425.00	165.72		40.72		
Commissioner's fees & mileage	500.00	433.00			67.00	
CIRCUIT COURT						
Witnesses & Jurors fees	2000.00	413.70		1,586.30		
Reporter's fees	125.00	10.00		115.00		
Meals for Jurors	125.00	8.10		116.90		
Bailiff's fees	50.00	14.00		36.00		
JUSTICE COURT						
Justice Court & expenses	50.00	44.78		5.22		
DISTRICT ATTORNEY						
Dist. Attorney's expenses	125.00	145.74		20.74		
COUNTY AGENT						
County Agent's office	1850.00	1,850.00				
COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE						
County Assessor's Salary	1,800.00	1,800.00				
Field Assessor's Salary	400.00	375.00			25.00	
Rolls, detail sheets, etc.	425.00	441.55		16.55		
Office Help	255.00	305.00		50.00		
COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE						
County Clerk's Salary	1,500.00	1,519.20		19.20		
Deputy Clerk's Salary	1,080.00	1,093.85		13.85		
Incidental Expenses	300.00	270.58			29.42	
Record books and blanks	275.00	244.50			30.50	
Filing Cabinet	283.70	283.70				
COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE						
County Sheriff's Salary	1,800.00	1,800.00				
Deputy Sheriff's Salary	1,500.00	1,500.00				
Traveling Expenses	420.00	420.00				
Incidental Office Expenses	400.00	504.10		104.10		
State Indus. Accident Comm.	100.00	60.02			39.98	
SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE						
County School Supt. Salary	1,500.00	1,500.00				
Traveling Expenses	300.00	300.00				
Incidental Expenses	300.00	318.32		18.32		
Office Work	600.00	600.00				
COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE						
County Treasurer's Salary	900.00	900.00				
Record books and blanks	60.00	57.75			2.25	
HEALTH OFFICERS						
County Health Officer	300.00	300.00				
Expenses	15.00	3.75				