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COUNTY ROADS

For more than 20 years this county has operated its road program on an entirely different basis than it did for a like period previously. In the days when Homer Wall was road supervisor he built permanent roads, market roads that are still in existence and used the year around without miring down in them. Some of them are pretty well worn out which is not surprising after 30 to 35 years.

The policy pursued by Wall and the county court at that time was to build a lasting road. There was criticism of it as there is of all public work. Some liked it, some didn't. Those off the roads that were built wanted work on their roads.

In recent years the policy has been to spread a little gravel every place and in theory get gravel on every road that was used by citizens of the county. That has had its points and has served a purpose.

It lacks in permanence for it seems necessary to spread gravel every place every year and still there is no road that will hold up after a moderate rain.

It looks as if the voters have a chance to vote for two kinds of road building this year, not directly, but in the persons of candidates who apparently adhere to different theories of road construction.

The county now has a crusher of its own and should have enough machinery to really build permanent roads if the money and the will were present.

MISUSE OF POWER

There can be no doubt that legislative bodies have been generous in giving the police power to committees, agencies, trade associations and similar bodies which are authorized to use it under certain circumstances.

The use of power, through governmental authority, to accomplish the aims of the minority is a dangerous policy. In many cases if a majority favored the action the power—or even the law—would not have been necessary. Thus we are using government as an agency of minorities and are giving pious and sanctimonious reasons therefor.

We overwork health and public safety and welfare as excuses for giving in to minorities.

Such proposals usually come with great show of affection for the public weal—and end up with a substantial tax on the public and numerous jobs for the faithful.

It seems only reasonable that legislators should learn to advise the proponents of this type of legislation that if they were good enough salesmen to convince the majority they would need no law. The reason citizens rebel against governments is that the governments cease to represent public opinion or a majority of it. Dictators do not long remain in office without tremendous police power because they do not know or follow the public will, either, if those who make the laws gives way to minority groups.

There are many examples. Worst of it is that often adherents of a law, the minority, do nothing to make it more popular after it is in effect.

FAST DRIVING

The advisory part of the press is always full of advice about driving a car too fast. While that is not bad advice it is not at all certain that the fast drivers contribute more to the accident rate than do the slower ones. They do kill more people when they are so involved.

The fast driver is often the man who drives many miles a week or month. He often knows the road and his car and may well be the one who keeps his car in shape and under control when the driving conditions are not good.

From some reading of accidents it appears that careless dri-

vers get in trouble more often than any other kind. We mean the man who drives with his arms and lets his mind ramble to other matters. A car with poor brakes, poor lights, poor tires, a broken down motor is a highway menace as bad as a fast driver.

Naturally a man with poor equipment, giving his job inadequate attention and still driving fast would be a dangerous driver to top them all. But we think that lack of attention to the job of driving is a single fault that leads to the most accidents.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

After some years in watching the process of assessing property for taxation purposes and after observing and sometimes aiding the proposed reformation of the system in Oregon the writer has concluded that the reason the duty of correctly assessing property is not done is because no one wants it to be done.

Assessments on real and, in most cases personal, property are so low that every owner feels that he is getting something of an advantage and he refuses to protest for fear of losing it. Everyone is in on the act. Honest John may be irate on learning that his neighbors land is assessed at \$20 per acre until he finds that his is assessed at \$19 whereupon he thinks the system is alright.

The theory of equality in taxation is that it does not matter how high property is assessed as long as it is assessed in proper relationship to other property. If John is paying the same tax he would be paying if the respective properties were assessed at \$100 and \$95.

It is not assessments that make taxes high. It is budgets; it is giving a careless O. K. to needless expenditures.

Everyone cannot be aided by low assessments. Neither can everyone be hurt by high assessments. It does seem, however, that low assessments are harder to equalize than high ones (and by high ones we mean actual ones.)

Tillable land in Sherman county is assessed at an average of \$21.25. That is less than 25 per cent of its value. In order to achieve a semblance of equality the assessor must assess town property at a similar figure and personal property as well. The state tax commission then must set the county ratio at a figure that will give equality to the utility property within the county. So everyone is happy; their assessments are low.

Then the tax levying boards meet and levy taxes on a dollar basis and the millage runs up to 50 to 75 mills. Correct assessments would make the millage 10 to 15. And the same amount of taxes would be paid by everyone.

The last legislature permitted the use of percentages of true cash value, which means that an assessor may assess at 50 per cent of true cash value and be legal. Assessors always did it anyway. The law merely recognized the practice.

The system gives the assessor a variable in assessing. He should not have one. Original assessments should be on an actual valuation, a true valuation. Difficult? Sure it is difficult. But if an assessor doesn't know the true cash value neither does he know 50 per cent of the true cash value.

Assessment of property in Oregon—and in other states—is going to be a smelly mess for a long time, at least, until property owners find out that they are fooling no one but themselves with low assessments. And they won't find that out until some one or some group compiles some figures to prove it. And high time it was done.

LABOR COMMISSIONER

The experienced and able W. E. Kimsey is retiring from his long-held post as labor commissioner for Oregon and the state must choose a new one. It is not a job that pays a fabulous salary or results in much publicity—and that is often bad.

It is a service job. The commissioner must administer the labor laws of the state. This entails occasional difficulties between AFL and CIO, the arouasers of social strife through labor, race and religious fanatics who try to arouse or allay prejudice plus the general run of wage payment cases. It is a job for a sane and steady man with a low boiling point and an under active adrenal gland.

Eugene Allen, formerly editor of the Labor Press of Portland and an AFL publication, a graduate of the University of Oregon, a son of Judge Allen of Deschutes county and a cow milking son of the mid-state area in his youth seems a likely candidate. He has been for many years a member of the Portland school board and is a state senator from Multnomah county.

Gene is a reasonable guy. It is

EOCE Library
Featured In East

Librarian Donald K. Nelson today announced that the April, 1954 edition of the "Wilson Library Bulletin", published by the H. W. Wilson company of New York, included among its features a story and picture of a fireplace library display at the Eastern Oregon college library. The display featured background paper and cut-outs mounted on a stiff-background surface.

Rufus Personals

By Mrs. George Fox
The American Legion auxiliary of the Frank E. Brown post No. 91 Wasco held its meeting Monday afternoon at the Legion hall in Wasco.

One o'clock luncheon was put on by the members to honor the auxiliary's state officers present. Corsages were presented to all the state officers.

Mrs. Elton Medler, president, opened the business meeting. Mrs. Grace Medler, Girls State chairman, reported Lola Johnson had been chosen to represent the Wasco unit at Girls State to be held at Willamette university in June.

The auxiliary plans a food sale at Patty O'Meara's election day May 21 in Wasco. They also plan to sell the poppies that day.

The nominating committee who were Mrs. Ira Fridley, Mrs. Harry Adams and Mrs. David Richelderfer submitted the following names for new officers. For president Mrs. Helen Larimore, 1st vice president Mrs. Grace Medler, 2nd vice president Mrs. Chester Coats, secretary-treasurer Mrs. Art Watkins and assistant secretary Mrs. John Foss. The executive committee were Mrs. John Foss, Mrs. Grace Medler, Mrs. Lee Dehler, Mrs. Sam Brock and Mrs. Gordon Harper. The auxiliary voted to accept the submitted names for their officers.

Mrs. Robert Bish announced the Wasco Woman's Study club will have a frozen food demonstration in Wasco May 12 and that interested persons are invited to attend.

Mrs. Lois Erickson, state president, talked on child welfare, rehabilitation, civil defense and membership. She reported that Oregon is 800 members short of last year.

The district president, Mrs. Mae Horn spoke a few words and introduced Mrs. Birdie Woody, who drove Mrs. Horn to Wasco. They are both members of the Hood River unit. Mrs. Horn asked each unit to submit their best poppy corsages to her for judging in competition with the other units.

Mrs. Mae Whitcomb, state secretary, said that Oregon veterans have made 432,000 poppies for units to sell.

Mrs. Frank von Borstel, state finance chairman, spoke a few words and showed the pictures she took of last year's meeting at Lois Hilderbrand's home in Hood River. Then Floye took a picture of this group.

Mrs. Elton Medler presented gifts to Mrs. Erickson, Mrs. Whit-

comb and Mrs. Horn. After the meeting the women made up poppy posters and corsages to sell poppy day.

The Bluebirds have been quite industrious at their recent meetings. They are preparing a May Festival display to be shown at a program May 19 at Rufus school. The girls are making a May pole complete with dolls, flowers, queen and princesses.

The Camp Fire girls had a candy sale in The Dalles and were quite satisfied with the money they made which will be used for supplies. The girls are busy decorating their ceremonial vests with felt appliques. They will still gratefully accept any discarded white and bright colored felt hats.

William O'Brien, president, called to order the Rufus PTA regular meeting Monday night at the Rufus school.

John DeFigh said a May day program will be on May 19 at Rufus school in the evening and will consist of several one act plays and numbers from the school band.

Ways of serving the lunch for the Rufus school dance May 15 was discussed. It was decided the parents and students would work

together on this project. As several of the new officers were absent installation was postponed until the September meeting.

After the meeting Mrs. Barbara Paist, Mrs. Bud Bishop and Mrs. George Fox served lunch consisting of sandwiches, potato chips and coffee to all present.

A little rain fell here Sunday night. It all helped but a good rain at this time would be beneficial to all growing things.

The community had several nights last week of frosts which nipped some of the gardens and the fruit. The cherry crop at Rufus is expected to be short, but the apricots weren't hurt too much thought Joe Morris, Rufus fruitman. The orchard men and others at Rufus are up in the air about future plans on account of the re-location of the Columbia river highway and railroad coming through the area this year.

The Dufur baseball team came to Rufus Friday for a game. The Wasco-Rufus team defeated Dufur by a two point margin. The score was 11 to 9 at the close. Jack Wallace and George Fox jr. pitched for Rufus.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Macnab left their children Janey and Sandy with Mr. and Mrs. Leland Medler for a few days last week while they attended a funeral in Seattle of Mrs. Macnab's relatives.

Meat cutting, wrapping, sharp freeze. Kenny's Market, Grass Valley, OrOegon. 47 tfn

WANTED: Man or woman to call on farmers in Sherman county. Some making over \$50 a day. Full or part time. Write or wire for free proposition. McNess Co. Dept. B, P. O. Box 14, Bayshore, sta. Oakland 23, California. 26-26p

INCOME TAX SHELTER is possible, in several different ways, under present federal laws governing investment stocks and bonds.

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WATKINS DEALERSHIP: Make up to \$400 a month and more if you qualify for the Watkins Dealership in Sherman county. Car or truck required. No money required. Write J. R. Watkins, Seattle 9, Wash. 26-31c

WOMEN WANTED: Chance to make money every week mailing postcards. Work home spare time. Box 9 Watertown, Mass. 27-30p

Dr. Frank D. Reid
Dentist
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Office closed until further notice

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Grass Valley, Oregon
Phone: Grass Valley, 232

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Wasco, Oregon
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such petition or application shall state thereon the address to which notice of the action of the Board of Equalization shall be sent.

CLAIR L. BALZER
Sherman County Assessor
25-27c

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All persons having claims against the Estate of Mary E. Schaeffer, deceased, are hereby notified to present them, with the proper vouchers and duly verified, to the undersigned, the duly appointed, qualified and acting Administrator of the Estate of Mary E. Schaeffer, deceased, at the office of T. Lester Johnson, attorney at law, Moro, Oregon, within six months from the date of the fitur publication of this notice, to-wit: April 23, 1954.

Max Barzee
Administrator

T. Lester Johnson
Attorney for Administrator
25-28c

ESTATE OF
CLARENCE I. LAFFOON, Dec'd.
ARTHUR LANGGUTH, Attorney
602 McKay Bldg., Portland, Ore.
NOTICE OF FINAL ACCOUNT
No. 572

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON, FOR THE COUNTY OF SHERMAN, DEPARTMENT OF PROBATE. In the matter of the Estate of Clarence I. Laffoon, Dec'd.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, as Executrix of the Estate of Clarence I. Laffoon, Dec'd has filed her Final Account in the County Court of the State of Oregon for Sherman County, and that Tuesday, the 25th day of May, 1954, at the hour of 11:30 o'clock in the forenoon of said day and the Court Room of said Court has been appointed by said court as the time and place for the hearing of objections thereto, and the settlement thereof.

Dated and first published April 2, 1954.
Date of last publication May 21, 1954.

IRMA C. LAFFOON
Executrix

ARTHUR LANGGUTH
Attorney
25-29c

CALL FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by School District No. 23, Grass Valley, Oregon, up to 8 p. m., May 10, 1954, for painting the schoolhouse and building a three bus garage and doing some other repair work on the building and grounds. Specifications may be obtained from the board. The board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Harold Eakin, chairman

If it's never going to be summer or even spring
some extra clothes will be needed.

We have planned both ways. If you want warm clothes we have 'em. If you want some gay and springlike we have that, too.

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