

# NEWS REVIEW

"Ashland—Home of the Oregon Shakespearean Festival"

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## Rabbit Raisers Meet To Plan Market Outlet

The meek and mild rabbit seems about to step out of his customary comedy cartoon role and become a serious contender for industrial importance in this area. No longer will the raising of a few rabbits in backyard hutches be a strictly family frying pan proposition.

According to an interview with Martin Wood, Talent, a new enterprise has been born which promises to be of advantage not only to rabbit raisers but to the community as a whole.

"With an ever increasing demand for rabbit meat there has been ample opportunity for backyard profits, that is until recently," said Mr. Wood, "however, legislation has been passed making it impossible for an individual raiser to butcher and sell his rabbits without being a licensed butcher having an inspected slaughter house. This in effect spells the doom of the small raisers just at a time when the national demand is exceeding the supply."

Undaunted by apparent obstacles a group of rabbit raisers met together several months ago to study the situation and to find a solution to the serious problem. As a result the Rogue River Valley Rabbit Marketing Association has been incorporated for the purchasing and processing of saleable local rabbits. The new company expects to be in operation soon and will handle the sale, butchering, freezing and marketing for the Medford-Ashland area. Shares of stock are being sold not only to rabbit raisers but to any who are interested in a profitable and needed development which will be of mutual benefit.

On Thursday evening, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. a "pot luck" dinner is to be held at the Talent City Hall for all those who wish to have a part in the new business undertaking. There will be three speakers, the attorney for the association who will explain the legal aspects, an experienced rabbit raiser who will give his expert advice and a San Francisco buyer who will present marketing facts and figures. The members are all enthusiastic over the potentialities of the Rogue River Rabbit Marketing Association as an added asset to Ashland and the surrounding country.

## Drama Group Plans Christmas Pageant

The drama group of the Congregational church held their regular weekly meeting in the church parlors Sunday with President Vera McAuley in charge. Art Smith led group singing to open the meeting and Mrs. Carryl Wines led choral reading.

The main part of the meeting which consisted of practicing the Christmas pageant to be given soon, was under the direction of Beth Phillips. Mrs. Phillips announced that next Sunday evening would be a dress rehearsal and urged that everyone participating be present.

The meeting was closed with the serving of refreshments and a brief social period.

## Increase In Assessed Valuation To Cut Tax Millage In Some Oregon Cities

A spectacular increase in the assessed valuation of some cities has decreased city millage rates of many cities despite an increase in the dollar amount of city tax levies, according to information contained in a bulletin prepared by the Bureau of Municipal Research and Service, University of Oregon, comparing city tax levies throughout the state. Reassessment and annexation, as well as new construction, were important factors in the increased assessed valuations. Dayton in Yamhill County and Oakridge in Lane County are cited as outstanding examples, with the 1949-50 assessed valuation more than double that of last year. An increase of over 50 per cent in assessed valuation is reported for ten cities.

For the cities of the state as a whole, however, tax levies have increased at a slightly more rapid rate than assessed valuation, with the result that the state-

wide average tax rate for city purposes increased from 18.4 mills for the 1948-49 fiscal year to 18.6 mills for the current fiscal year. City levies for the 1949-50 fiscal year total \$15,317,192, which is an increase of \$1,564,365 or 11.4 per cent over the 1948-49 total. The assessed valuation of cities was reported at \$24,966,190 in 1949-50, an increase of \$78,588,903 or 10.5 per cent.

Of the active incorporated cities in the state, only seven did not make a property tax levy for 1949-50. City millage rates increased in 92 cities and decreased in 106 cities. The assessed valuation increased in 190 cities, but decreased in 14. Complete details regarding city property tax levies for the current year as well as an analysis of trends appear in the new bulletin which will be distributed to city officials and civic groups throughout the state this week.



GERMAN REDS HOLD RALLY—The Soviet-dominated Eastern German state holds a rally in the Berlin Opera House to which 2500 people came to hear speakers call for closer ties with Russia. The stage of the Opera House is decorated with huge portraits of Lenin and Stalin and the Soviet flag, left, and the East German flag, right.

## KWIN Program Now Carried In News Review

KWIN radio program is now being carried each week in the Southern Oregon News Review as an addition to the many other special features brought to thousands of readers in this area by Ashland's weekly newspaper.

Many requests for the KWIN program have been received, both by the radio station and the newspaper and it is through the cooperation of the two mediums that the program has been arranged.

## Business Houses Take On Yuletide Atmosphere Here

Nearly all Ashland business houses have taken on a Yuletide air during the past week with Christmas decorations in show windows and through-out the stores.

Merchants have planned ahead and have this year one of the finest displays of merchandise to offer Christmas shoppers since before the war.

An appreciable step-up in Christmas buying is being noticed, with most merchants expecting the heaviest rush of shoppers during the last two weeks before the holiday.

## Scout Troop 12 Plan For Weekend Hike

Ashland Boy Scout Troop 12 met Monday night to complete plans for their scheduled hike, to be held Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 10 and 11, it was announced this week by Scoutmaster Gifford Chandlund.

Chandlund said that at present the enrollment is complete in Troop 12 and that no more applications will be accepted.

## Fall Concert Planned For Tuesday, Dec. 13

The Southern Oregon Little Symphony orchestra has scheduled their Fall Concert for Tuesday evening, Dec. 13, at 8 o'clock, it has been announced by Glenn T. Matthews, instructor in music, at Southern Oregon College.

## Chamber Hears Highway Problems

Harvey Blythe, executive secretary of the Oregon U. S. Highway 99 association, was guest speaker at the weekly luncheon of the Ashland Chamber of Commerce Tuesday. The topic of Mr. Blythe's speech was a general definition of the 99 Highway Association. Part of Mr. Blythe's speech dealt with what part Ashland could play in the Highway 99 organization and what had not been done to further the project.

Highway 99 association originally started in Jackson County. For several years it was not an actual organization and published no record of its activities. In 1939, the Oregon U. S. Highway 99 association was formed and adopted a constitution and drew up its by-laws. This organization functioned until the beginning of the war when it became dormant due to lack of gas, restrictions on traveling and the lack of highway materials.

About a year ago, continued Mr. Blythe, the organization was revived in as big a way as possible. A full-time manager was appointed as the former volunteer method of work had been found to be not successful. It is the aim of the organization to make as strong an organization as possible out of the Oregon U. S. Highway 99 Association.

During the war years, Blythe said, Highway 99 was designated as an essential inter-regional military highway, thus providing approximately three million dollars and hard-to-get material for the highway, that would not have otherwise been available. This was during the year 1943, when Ralph Koozer was president of the Highway 99 Association.

"At the present time, 25 per cent of the highway upkeep is paid by the state, with an additional 75 per cent coming from the Federal government, thus providing a million and a half dollars extra on Highway 99 than it would otherwise have. The reasons listed above show the need for a Highway 99 Association," he said.

Ralph Koozer, vice-president of the Oregon U. S. Highway 99 association made a few remarks. Mr. Koozer said there are two essential problems facing the Rogue River Valley. These are transportation and water. If the valley had both of these, nothing could stop the growth of the community. Without them, progress is slowed.

Mr. Blythe also addressed members of the Ashland Lions club at their Tuesday night meeting.

Judge Wilmet returned on Monday afternoon from a short trip to San Francisco.

## DeGroot, Wilson Taken On State Liquor Count

Robert DeGroot, owner of Glenn's confectionery here, and Dean Wilson, 24, a truck driver, were arrested last week by members of the State Liquor commission and charged with contributing to the delinquency of minors.

DeGroot, 24, waived preliminary hearing and was released on \$1000 bail and was bound over to the Jackson county grand jury. Wilson was held in the Jackson county jail at Medford pending return of FBI records after he had plead guilty before Judge H. K. Hanna of the circuit court.

The pair were picked up after Vern Smith, chief of Ashland police, and his force had carried on an intensive investigation and informed State officers of their findings. The two men were arrested and plead guilty to furnishing a group of Ashland minors with intoxicating liquor for a party in an abandoned cabin in the Siskiyou mountains recently. Officers said no girls were involved in the case.

An official of the liquor commission said that the commission was greatly aided by Ashland police, who, after obtaining evidence, called them in to handle the case. He said it is the fourth or fifth such case to come before the authorities here.

The State officer, who requested that his name be withheld, said that his department has had exceptional cooperation from the Ashland police force in gathering detailed information for the commission to work from.

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Wallis spent the past weekend visiting in Roseburg with her brother, Mr. T. V. Gurney, who has been ill.

## Vail Urges Care In Packaging For Christmas Mail

Bundle-bearing lines will greet postal clerks when the grill-barred post office windows open Monday morning — they hope!

"The greatest flood of parcel post in post office history is expected this year."

"If it all comes in together, at the last minute, we'll be swamped," declares Postmaster Vail. "Christmas gift packages should be in the mail by December 10 at the very latest."

In addition to Yule packages, the post office will be jammed with commercial shipments.

The post office goes on holiday schedule beginning Dec. 5. Windows will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., including Saturday.

The Postmaster reports that post office windows are most crowded at lunch time. He advises mailing packages before 10 a.m. and between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. to avoid long lines and aching feet.

"It would help greatly," he declares, "if people would decide exactly what they want be-

## Schools Plan Open House On Sunday, Dec. 13

Frank B. Bennett, superintendent of Salem city schools, will give the address at the dedication of the new school buildings in Ashland according to an announcement made today by Leonard P. Linn. The exercises are scheduled for the Lincoln School auditorium at two-thirty Sunday afternoon December 11. Paul R. Finnell, chairman of the board will review the building program. Invocation will be given by Earl Downing, president of the Ashland ministerial association. Music for the occasion will be furnished by the Ashland High School band.

Reserved seats have been mailed to former board members as it is expected there will be a capacity crowd to hear the exercises. The P.T.A. organizations from the Walker, Briscoe and Lincoln school are cooperating in putting on a tea for the visitors. This tea will be at the Lincoln school along with the program.

Immediately after the dedicatory numbers the new buildings will be open for inspection. The buildings are practically complete and the maple floor in the auditorium at the Briscoe School is being sanded ready for the coats of varnish. It is hoped that some time this week the last three classes will be meeting in their own rooms. At present these sections are in the Briscoe library, the Methodist Sunday School rooms and in the office waiting room.

F. Marion Stokes, architect from Portland, spent part of this week checking the buildings. The Walker School grounds have been graded under the direction of C. E. Corry, park superintendent.

## 28 KILLED IN OREGON TRAFFIC LAST MONTH

Preliminary reports of Oregon's November traffic fatalities list 28 persons killed, Secretary of State Earl T. Newberry reported today. The final death toll, increasing with later reports of deaths due to injuries suffered in November, is expected to exceed the 28 fatalities recorded in November a year ago.

## License Office To Open Here

Ashland will have an office for issuing auto plates in the immediate future, it was announced this week by Bill McGee, secretary of the Ashland Chamber of Commerce.

In a telephone conversation with Bill Neely, from the office of the Secretary of State, it was decided to designate the office of the Ashland Chamber as a branch office for issuing license plates in this area.

McGee said that arrangements are also being completed where the local office will also issue renewals of drivers' licenses. No new drivers' licenses will be issued here, McGee said.

## Light Statements May Be In Offings; Council Says "No" On Crosswalk, Grants Attorney Fees Be Allowed

Users of Electricity in Ashland may soon receive monthly statements for electric bills, it was brought out at Tuesday night's meeting of the City Council, when Elmer Biegel, utilities superintendent, was instructed to investigate the cost of necessary equipment involved to do the billing.

The discussion arose following reading of complaints concerning the present system, where no bills are issued and customers are forced to call at the city office to pay their bills by the tenth of each month or pay an additional fifty cent charge.

Mayor T. C. Williams said that "the city of Ashland is big enough to mail out light bills each month" and eliminate the necessity of forcing customers to make a special trip to pay bills, instructing Biegel to investigate the cost of necessary equipment for billing.

### Vote "No" On Crosswalk

A petition, signed by approximately fifty people was read the council, requesting a crosswalk be established at the intersection of the alley between the Varsity theatre and daily Tidings office on East Main street. Following a discussion of the matter it was brought to a vote with the decision that no crosswalk be established here. Voting for the crosswalk were councilmen Stansbury, Homes and Kroeger, against the crosswalk were Bailey, Neill and Sheldon. In casting the tie-breaking vote, Mayor Williams said that in view of the hazardous condition such a walk would create, he had no choice but to vote "no" on the proposal.

### Attorney Fees Granted

Attorney fees in the amount of \$1,000 to Harry Skerry and Ben Lombard, arising from last spring's suit against Mayor Williams and the city council, were allowed at Tuesday night's meeting, with the money to be budgeted in next year's budget and paid at that time.

Voting in favor of allowing the bill were councilmen Bailey, Neill and Kroeger. Stansbury, Homes and Kroeger voted "no" on the motion and mayor Williams cast his deciding ballot in favor of allowing the bill.

No action was taken on a letter to the council from Wm.

## Mercier Cites S. P. War Work

Southern Pacific not only hauled government freight at below average rates in wartime but also provided millions of dollars of extra service without charge in order to help win the war, President A. T. Mercier of the railroad testified in Washington, D. C., this week.

Mercier was a witness in the first of a series of "reparation" suits being heard before the Interstate Commerce Commission. Alleging that the government should have been granted even more favorable rates, the Department of Justice is seeking return of between two and three billion dollars, said to be the largest amount ever involved in litigation in this country.

Southern Pacific received an average of only 4.89 per cent on its net investment in the five years 1941 through 1945, after taxes, Mercier reported, and earnings since then have been considerably lower. Federal income and excess profits taxes paid by Southern Pacific in the same five-year war period amounted to \$228,000,000, he said. In addition, the railroad paid large federal payroll, state and miscellaneous taxes.

Briggs, who asked that the same treatment be given his bill in a like amount as that given to the Skerry-Lombard bill. Mayor Williams said that in his opinion Briggs brought on the case by his own efforts and that he was not defending the council and mayor.

A letter from the Taxpayer's league requested the council to delay action on the proposed remodeling of the building on Third street for a fire station because (1) lack of emergency, (2) cost has been an arbitrary figure, (3) further investigation should be made before establishing a combined city and rural fire district. No action was taken on the matter.

Councilmen Homes, Sheldon and Bailey were named as a committee by the Mayor to investigate further the actual area contained in the Ashland watershed in an effort to clear questions as to whether sale of the Timber in Ashland canyon is feasible.

Councilman Sheldon urged that a committee be appointed to investigate prices being paid by water users, such as farmers, hotels, sawmills, etc., and Mayor Williams appointed Councilman Bailey as representative from the City Council, with Phil Wendt and Herb Houston to work with him.

Councilman Sheldon called attention to the council that he believed city equipment was not being properly lubricated and charged that last summer he had been told by assistant fire chief McNair that city fire trucks had not been greased in two years. His charge was later substantiated by McNair, who said that at present he "didn't have enough tools to change a spark plug." The council discussed setting up of a city warehouse with a man hired to care for city equipment but no action was taken on the matter since funds are not at present available for such a station.

In discussing repair of Park street, it was brought out that at present a portion of the street is only 20 feet wide and that it will require \$1,000 dollars to buy the necessary footage for the required 40 foot street. Since no funds are available for this purchase, it is apparent that no action can be taken on repair of the street at present.

In final action of the evening, Judge Wilmet called attention to the council that "Ashland is the only city between Portland and San Francisco without Christmas decorations," and requested that, in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce, the city make available men and equipment to cut trees and at least establish day-time decorations for the streets. The council oked this request, with all members but Bailey voting in favor of the proposal.

Abe Neslin, chairman of the Chamber committee for street decorations, said that no action had been taken on buying special decorations due to the fact that (1) the cost would approximate \$4,000, and (2) light lines in the city would not carry the additional lights for the decorations.

## 'Life With Father' Staging Ready For Weekend

The play "Life With Father," is set for staging in Churchill auditorium at Southern Oregon college Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, starting at 8:20 o'clock.

The play, being directed by Angus Bowmer, assistant professor of English at the college, includes the following participants:

Clarence Day Sr. (Father), Mark Hattan, Vinnie Day (Mother), Trube Wetterau, Clarence Day Jr., George Bell, John Day, Bill Jones, Whitney, John Johnson, Harlan, 6-year-old Billy Mansfield, Cora (Vinnie's sister), Nancy Youngblood, Mar, Barbara Messenger, Dr. Lloyd, Fred Buchner, Dr. Humphreys, Bob Boyer, Maids, Marvel Gage, Mickey Streitz, and Margaret Bismark.

### HEARS FROM GERMANY

Bill McGee received a Christmas card from his sister, Mrs. Grave Baldwin, in Germany, which states that conditions there are bad, that the morale is very low and that everyone is wanting to get back to the states.

Mrs. Baldwin's husband, a Lt. Colonel, is stationed in Germany with the Medical Corps.