

COUNTY TAX LEVY DECLARED INVALID

District Attorney Tells Court Budget Must be Advertised and Taxpayers' Meeting Held Before Levy is Made

Lane county's tax levy is invalid and the county court must advertise the budget, hold a taxpayers' meeting and vote a new levy before taxes can be collected is the opinion of District Attorney Clyde N. Johnston, who Wednesday concurred in the opinion of Attorney General Van Winkle. The district attorney, who says his advice was not sought on the budget, filed a letter with the county clerk setting forth what the county court must do in order to collect taxes in 1924.

The difficulty comes through the supreme court decision setting aside the law creating the tax supervision and conservative commission. As the Lane county budget, was virtually made under the direction of this committee, with its alterations, changes and additions and was not advertised as required by the old law it is held invalid. Several other counties of the state, which tried to follow the new law, are in the same difficulty.

The district attorney's letter to the county court follows:

Gentlemen: The attorney general yesterday handed down an opinion with reference to the legality of county tax levies made without the publication of the budget and the meeting of the taxpayers, as provided by law, are null and void. I heartily concur with the opinion of the attorney general, inasmuch as it has been my opinion at all times.

The levy as made in Lane county was made without the publication of the budget, as required by law, and without the taxpayers' meeting being held to discuss the same. Hence the levy heretofore attempted to be made by your honorable body is null and void and it is necessary that you immediately take steps provided by the statute to lawfully levy a tax in Lane county. The statute further provides that the assessor must turn the roll over to the sheriff not later than 45 days before April 5, and in view of this fact it is imperative that you at once order the publication of the budget and get a date for the meeting of the taxpayers, in order that you may lawfully levy a tax in Lane county for this year. The last date upon which the rolls may be turned over to the sheriff is the 20th day of February, 1924.

It is essential that you give this matter your immediate attention in order that the business of the county may not be crippled for the next year.

Respectfully submitted,
CLYDE N. JOHNSTON,
District Attorney

Mill Purchased at Dexter

The Lewis-Peters Lumber company has purchased the Hills Brothers' saw mill at Dexter and also the Hills' interest in the Mount Jume Flume company at that place. The flume is from Pengra station up Lost Creek to the mill. Lewis-Peters operate mills at Veneta and Cottage Grove.

Farmers' Union Warehouse Elect

Ralph Laird, of Creswell, president of the Farmers' Union, was elected president of the Co-operative Warehouse at a meeting of farmers last Saturday. Other officers and directors chosen were: C. E. Jordan, Creswell, secretary-treasurer; George Keibelbeck, Cottage Grove; T. J. Sweeney, Jr., Creswell, and W. A. Andrews, Waltherville.

E. E. Morrison, manager, presented the reports showing that the warehouse sales during the past six months have totaled \$67,852.91. New equipment to the value of \$2000 has been added. The organization is capitalized at \$15,000.

Mrs. Lutz Dies

Mrs. Lutz, wife of Floyd Lutz, a former employe in the Springfield Southern Pacific depot, died of tuberculosis this week, according to word received through friends. Mrs. Lutz was being taken to Arizona by her husband in the hopes of improving her health, but died one hour after reaching Tucson. Mr. Lutz was on a leave of absence from the Eugene depot where his present position is. Burial will be in Mesquite where Mrs. Lutz's parents reside.

WESTERN UNION TO BUILD LINES ON NATRON CUTOFF

Make Arrangements for Construction Camps; Railroad Officials Visit Oakridge and Other Points

A ten-wire telegraph and telephone line over the Natron cut-off will be built by the Western Union, crews on the work having already started, according to officials of the company. Arrangements for camps and materials are now being made and it is expected that setting of poles will start within the next few weeks.

The Western Union now has one wire to Oakridge but this line will likely be rebuilt to accommodate the ten-wire line, it is said. The line will follow the Southern Pacific tracks over the summit from Springfield to Klamath Falls.

Activity on the cut-off is increasing daily. Many officials have made visits to Oakridge and vicinity lately. A party went to Oakridge Saturday night. Among them were F. L. Burekhalter, assistant general manager, and several division officers, including E. L. King, superintendent of the Portland division. They were accompanied by engineers, and inspected the railroad's property all along the line. They stopped at Mohawk Junction and Wandling on the Wendling branch before going on to Woodburn Sunday night over the east side line. From compiled data a booklet which rates the per cent of perfection of the various places will be published.

Work on the summit tunnel which will penetrate the Cascades on the Natron cutoff will start near the west end of Lake Odell in the next week or two, according to word reaching this city. The tunnel, which is about 1500 feet in length, will be bored through the summit ridge between Maiden peak and Mount Yoran. Because of the deep snow work is being held up on the east side somewhat on the grading and the contractor on the northern section will start crews on the tunnel instead, it is reported.

JOHN BROWN DELIVERS FORCEFUL MESSAGES

Speaks at Christian Church This Week Believes Bible the Inerrent Word of God

John Brown has met the expectation of all those who have heard him preach at the Christian church this week, according to James Pointer, pastor of the church. One moment the audience is roaring with laughter and the next moment they are swayed with the masterful thought of the Gospel. There is no room for doubt or indecision in the minds of those who hear Brown. He believes the Bible is the inerrant word of God and the only certain foundation upon which man has to build for eternity.

One of the outstanding features of Dr. Brown's preaching is the description of conditions in China, Japan, India and Europe as he saw them, in his two trips around the world. Saturday night he gives a great lecture on India.

Tonight the sermon is an illustrated one, "From Manger to Cross." Friday night, "One Minute After Death." Sunday morning at 9:45 a lecture to men only. Sunday afternoon at three o'clock a lecture for women only. Great song services at 7:30 each evening. Mr. Pruitt's singing is much appreciated.

A welcome is extended to all people to attend these services. A comfortable building is the general verdict of those that are attending the services.

THREE BOOZE PRISONERS "TRUSTIES" MAKE ESCAPE

One woman and two men prisoners of the county escaped Sunday and have not been located. They were Minnie Cadden Larkin, S. G. Barker and Bob Bobo arrested in the "movie studio" liquor raid October 12. Each were serving six months jail sentences and \$500 fines for their part in the liquor operations. The woman had been sent to the county poor farm to work and the men were working as trustees in the courthouses yard when they made their escape.

Marriage Licenses of Week

Marriage licenses issued during the past week by the county clerk include George H. Waggoner, legal, and Pauline M. Schultz, legal, both of Eugene; Floyd E. Foreman, 23, Wandling, and Alice Bakken, 28, Eugene; and George Lee Brewer, 22, Fall Creek, and Gladys Stolberg, 19, Wandling.

Politics at County Courthouse Astir

County Surveyor Seeks Re-election; Frank Taylor Out for Sheriff, Others Expected

Lane county is to elect a complete set of county officials at next election, with the exception of county judge, commissioner and district attorney, and already some activity is being manifest in that line. During the week P. M. Morse has announced his intentions of running for re-election as county surveyor and Frank Taylor, of Thurston, has come out for sheriff.

Friends of Sheriff Fred Sticklels say he has other plans and they have not yet been able to prevail upon him to take the office again. Ben Koeney will likely come out for assessor and also at this election a representative must be elected to take his place in the legislature.

County officials are yet reticent about whether they will run. Friends of County Commissioner Sharp say he will run again on his record for road building and economy.

R. S. Bryson, county clerk; Edna Ward, treasurer, and E. J. Moore, county school superintendent, have not expressed themselves as to whether they will seek the offices again. No other candidates have come out although it is reported that both republicans and democrats expect to have full tickets in the field. Likely in the republican primaries contests will also result for nearly all offices, local politicians who have been taking soundings report.

CONCERT AT METHODIST CHURCH MUSICAL EVENT

Marguerite MacManus, Mrs. Gault and Burton Arant to Appear in Concert January 18

A musical event of unusual interest will be the concert to be given in the Methodist church Friday evening, January 18, by Marguerite MacManus, violinist, Mrs. James Lester Gault, soprano, and Burton Arant, pianist-accompanist.

Mrs. MacManus is a violinist of note, having toured the United States in 1918 with Godowsky, the great pianist. She has also appeared in concert with many other noted artists. Mrs. Gault is director of the Lorelei chorus in Corvallis and is well known as a soloist of unusual ability. A program given by her recently over the Oregonian radio in Portland brought an enthusiastic response, and was acclaimed one of the best ever given over the radio.

Burton Arant, who conducts a piano studio in Eugene and Springfield, will accompany the other artists and also play a group of solos.

The concert is under the auspices of the Crescendo Music club, a Eugene organization. The same program will also be given in the Methodist church in Eugene on the evening of January 22. T. Steinway grand piano will be sent from Portland for the two concerts.

Court Convened January 28

The adjourned term of circuit court will be resumed January 28, according to an order of Judge G. F. Skipworth notifying jurors to appear. Twenty-one jurors are on the panel. Two Springfield men, James Hill and M. M. Peery, are members of the jury.

Legion Installs

Officers were installed at a meeting of the Springfield post of the American Legion in the W. O. W. hall Friday night. H. B. Freeland was installed as commander, C. A. Swasts as vice-commander, Jess Meats as second vice-president, Verdon May as adjutant and J. M. Larson finance officer.

Four new members have been added to the executive board; Vern Woolley, Ray McPherson, C. F. Scott and P. C. Tyson.

Died of Pneumonia

L. Erickson of Silverton died Tuesday night of pneumonia, according to word received by friends here. Mr. and Mrs. Erickson resided in Springfield two years ago.

Spending Winter in California

George Davenport, head of the local 4L's, is spending a pleasant winter in Long Beach, California. The weather is fine there, he writes to his friends here, although his health has not improved as much as he had expected from the change. He expects to go on to Newburg Green, Kentucky, to visit his mother who has reached the age of 88.

Springfield News Is 21 Years Old

Paper Has History Allied With the Town; Owners Listed in Order

This week marks the twenty-first birthday of the Springfield News. In the past years it has had an exciting and checkered career, associated closely with the contending forces in the history of the town. Today it reaches its majority the paper finds a contented community and smooth sailing.

The first newspaper in Springfield under the present name was published by Franklin Woods, who had a little office on Mill street. Before that two Eugene men, Kelly and Amos, had run a paper known as the "Nonpareil" for a short time. Woods in his turn sold to L. M. Beebe, who conducted the paper for a number of years.

Around the time of 1912 and 1913, in the old days when there were nine saloons and one wholesale house for liquor in Springfield, violent warfare was waged between the wet side and the dry side. Beebe espoused the wet cause, and a rival paper was started by Charles P. Poole, now an undertaker with branch offices in Halsey, Brownsville and Lebanon. The rival paper was known as the Lane County Star.

The dry sheet eventually won out in the elections, and the Springfield News was sold by Beebe to a corporation. It was consolidated with the Lane County Star and run for a short time under that name. Gradually the two papers and the seven policemen then employed were no longer necessary to keep order in the town, the issue died down, and the name of the paper was changed back to the Springfield News.

W. A. Dill, now a professor of journalism in the University of Kansas, ran it for a short time. J. C. Dimm and sons, now in Portland, bought out the corporation. Later it was in the hands of R. A. Brodie, now running a printing office in Eugene. Howard Freeland and Samuel Tyler, and then Freeland and Henderson owned it jointly, and from them it came to Maxey and Westerfield, the present ownership.

MRS. EMERY HEADS CITY LIBRARY BOARD

Mrs. N. W. Emery was elected president of the Springfield library board for the coming year at a meeting Tuesday evening at the library building across from the city hall.

Other officers elected are: vice president, Mrs. James Davis; secretary, Mrs. L. K. Page; librarian, Miss Mary Roberts. Members elected to the library board were: Mrs. Lee Clark and Mrs. Vina McLain. Mrs. Page has served on the board as secretary for 16 years.

The purchase of 27 new books was announced in a report by Miss Roberts, librarian. Donors of five new books are Ed Blossom, Mrs. S. Jacobson and Mr. Cooper.

Mrs. James Davis served the ladies with light refreshments after the business session.

MUSICAL TRIO NEXT NUMBER ON LYCEUM

An entertainment by the Buckeye male trio was the third number of the Ellison-White lyceum sponsored by the local 4L's. The affair was held in the high school auditorium Monday night at 8:15 o'clock. The next program to be presented is one by Emma Dee Randall on the evening of January 22.

The trio included George Chenot, who is also manager, William T. Beek, and Glenden Craggs. Mr. Chenot plays the trombone, piano and tenor saxophone. Mr. Beek's instruments are the trumpet, slide-cornet and banjo. The baritone horn and piano are played by Glenden Craggs.

The program featured the brass trio combination, the "Vaa Eps" trio, and a vocal trio of first and second tenor baritone. There were novelty features and costume changes.

Apartment House Sold

The apartment house at 534 Fourteenth avenue east, formerly owned by Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Conklin, has been sold to D. W. Crites of Springfield, it has been announced. Crites takes immediate possession. The deal is said to involve about \$12,000.

The Carbolinum Wood-Preserving company received a cartload of oregonite Friday. It arrived in a tank car from St. Louis Park, Minnesota. On Tuesday they sent a shipment of treated poles to California.

FIVE DELEGATES WILL ATTEND PRESS MEETING

School to Send President and Members of Go-Getter Staff to University Convention

Five delegates from the Springfield high school will attend the conference of student body officers and editors on the University of Oregon campus at Eugene on January 11 and 12, according to J. E. Torbet, principal.

The representatives are: Alice Tomseth, president of the student body; Pauline Jack, editor of the "Go-Getter," the high school paper; Herbert Horning, business manager of the publication; Ralph Clins, advertising manager; Audrey McPherson, editor of the high school annual, "Maple Leaf." The delegates will be accompanied by Miss Anne Hill, English teacher, and graduate of the University in 1923.

The "Go-Getter" will compete with other high school papers of the state to determine which paper has given the best service to the student body, and which has the best advertising methods.

Eighth grade examinations begin today under the supervision of Mrs. Ora Hemenway, principal of the Lincoln school. There is a class of 13 to take the examinations.

In a ballot taken in the history class of the Springfield high school under the direction of Professor Randall Scott, Abraham Lincoln was voted the greatest American of the earlier days of the republic, and Woodrow Wilson the greatest of modern times. Lincoln won over George Washington by one vote, and Wilson over Theodore Roosevelt by three votes.

COURT ASKS FOREST AID ON WILLAMETTE ROAD

Heavy Traffic at Oakridge Makes Road Work Necessary; Bond Projects to be Improved

Extensive work on the Willamette highway from Lowell to Oakridge is planned this year by County Commissioners Emmett Sharp and Nels Roney, who are in Portland at the state highway commission meeting, seeking to receive forest service aid on this section. The forest service only cooperates with the state and it is necessary to get this aid through the commission.

Several thousand dollars have been spent in recent months on this section by the county. The great increase in traffic brought on by the Western Lumber company at Westfir has been largely responsible for the work being necessary. The county has bond money to spend on this road. The road from Florence to the north county line, in the Siuslaw forest, is also one that federal aid is sought on. Likewise the road from Glenada south will be worked this year. Due to the cutting down of money allotted to road work in the budget and the heavy maintenance now necessary practically all the new construction this year will have to be in bond projects, it is said.

ENCAMPMENT INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS FOR YEAR

W. B. Pengra Encampment Number 67 I. O. O. F. installed officers Friday night in the Odd Fellows hall. Installing officer was J. E. Richmond, district deputy grand patriarch of the Pengra encampment.

Newly elected officers installed were: chief patriarch, Oswald M. Olson; high priest, W. G. Hughes; senior warden, John Ketels, Sr.; scribe, H. A. Korf; treasurer, F. F. Barnard. Appointive officers were also installed: guide, John S. Lorah; inside sentinel, E. G. Black; outside sentinel, Charles E. Nolf; first watch, J. H. Brunette; second watch, F. G. Sankey; guards, S. S. Potter and E. T. Kintzley.

W. E. Wadsworth, past grand patriarch, was here from his home in Harrisburg, officially representing Grand Patriarch Frank P. Light of Lakeview, Oregon, who was unable to attend. Grand Junior Warden Herbert E. Walker of the grand encampment of Oregon was present also, as were Past Grand Patriarch W. M. Green and Past Grand Master W. F. Walker.

Patriarch Wadsworth gave a talk on Odd Fellowship and told of his trip as Oregon delegate to the Sovereign Grand Lodge.

After the regular business and the installation light refreshments of sandwiches, coffee and doughnuts were served.

BIG WESTFIR DAM NEARLY COMPLETE

\$35,000 Project for Western Lumber Company is Fine Piece of Work; Construction Starts on Mill Proper; Post-office Established

The \$35,000 dam across the north fork of the Willamette is nearly completed near Oakridge, according to J. E. Stewart who made the trip to Oakridge and Westfir Tuesday. Steam shovels and donkey engines for the Western Lumber company are at work, and a small mill is running, turning out timbers for the dam, railroad and big sawmill. The dam raises the water 27 feet and backs it up three miles.

The section boss for the Southern Pacific was there Monday and put in the railroad switch, and grading is now going on for the cutting in of the switch from the main line.

The dam is one of the finest of its kind, Mr. Stewart declared. It was built under the direction of George Catching of Springfield, who was foreman of the dam. William Norris is engineer. The flood gates are so delicately adjusted that a child of four could open or close them with the levers used.

Everything is getting in readiness for the construction of the large mill. Two hundred men are at work. There will be postal service at Westfir beginning Monday. John Byers is the new postmaster. The men at Westfir formerly had to get their mail through Oakridge, but the large amount of it entitled them to a postal service of their own.

S. P. TRAINS CHANGE TIME AND CONNECTIONS

A change in time of the trains on the Southern Pacific lines is outlined by Carl Olson, station agent at Springfield. The train from Eugene to Oakridge will leave here at the same time, but returning it leaves Oakridge at 12:45 in the afternoon instead of 1:20. It will arrive here at about 2:50, and in Eugene at 3:05. The change is to begin Sunday.

Of the main line trains number 54 leaves ahead of number 16 instead of vice versa as at present. Number 54 will arrive in Portland at 7:15 in the morning instead of 7:40, and number 16 will arrive there at 9:00 in the morning instead of 7:30.

The passenger train to Oakridge will be known as number 91 and 92 instead of being called special.

HAMLIN APPOINTED TO FORM REPUBLICAN CLUBS

John Mellis Hamlin, son of Postmaster F. B. Hamlin, has just been appointed by the Republican national committee as organizer of republican clubs in colleges and universities of the United States. He has been working at this in the east, with headquarters in Washington, D. C.

Young Mr. Hamlin graduated from Harvard last spring. He was in the service during the war, and before that time spent one year at the University of Oregon at Eugene.

COLONEL MERCER WILL ADDRESS P-T. MEETING

Colonel W. D. G. Mercer of Eugene will give his address "Mother Love" at a meeting of the Parent-Teacher association Friday, January 11, at 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon at the Lincoln school.

The lecture will be preceded by a short business session. All parents and others interested are urged to be present. Col. Mercer's address is considered a classic in English, according to Mrs. C. A. Swarts, president of the association.

Coming to Visit Brother

Word has been received that Miss Mary Scott, 77 years old, is on her way to visit her brother in Springfield. C. F. Scott, Sr., 80 years old. Miss Scott lives at London, Ontario, Canada, and is at present in Kansas City, Missouri. She will soon be in Portland where she will visit relatives, and then come here.

Ex-Nun Lectured

Sister Lucania, an ex-nun, gave a lecture in the Bell Theatre Friday night, and spoke again on Sunday at the Baptist church. On Monday afternoon she addressed the women in the Baptist church.