

# Local News

Matt Halvorsen, pioneer Ione resident, in Heppner Tuesday on business, stated that the present season is the wettest he ever saw in the county, and he has seen a good many seasons here. Mr. Halvorsen's contention is verified by many others who feel that while there may have been seasons when the precipitation was greater, none have shown greater absorption of moisture due to the lack of frost during the winter months.

Julian Rauch was in town Tuesday morning from his ranch in the Alpine section. That part of the county is too wet for spring plowing, he states. Rauch also reported that Max Gorkfles' truck was stuck in the roadway leading from the highway to the Kilkenny place on Butter creek, signifying that the rains have been covering that district quite generously.

Alton Basey of Yakima was a visitor the first of the week at the A. E. Wright farm home. Basey was formerly a resident of Heppner and for a number of years operated the old Mountain House that stood on the hill just south of the Natter property and which was destroyed in the big fire July 4, 1918.

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Nikander left for Portland Sunday to spend a few days in the city. While there Mr. Nikander attended a floor covering seminar sponsored by the Armstrong Linoleum company and an institute conducted in the interest of embalming.

Guests at the home of Dr. and Mrs. A. D. McMurdo Saturday were Mrs. M. A. Leach and daughter, Mrs. Richard Stockman, of Pendleton. Returning home they were accompanied by Miss Florence Sims who had been a guest at the McMurdo home for several days.

Mrs. Jared Aiken and mother, Mrs. M. L. Curran, accompanied Mr. and Mrs. T. Babb to Portland Friday. Mrs. Aiken was on her way home to Beverley Hills, Cal., following a visit of several weeks here.

Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Turner spent the week end in Portland, where they visited their daughter, Anabel. They were accompanied to the city by Mrs. R. C. Lawrence, Mrs. Joseph Hughes and son Billy.

Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Ferguson and Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Schwarz and Leonard Ray, Jr., drove to Seneca Sunday to spend the day with Mr. and Mrs. William Schwarz.

E. W. Christopherson, in Heppner Monday from the Dry Fork wheat ranch, reported plenty of moisture in that locality and bright prospects for crops.

Mrs. Hanson Hughes accompanied Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Juday to Portland Monday to spend a few days in the city.

John Anglin is resting at home after spending a week in the hospital.

## Forest Revenues Boon to Counties

Oregon's share of the receipts from the national forests, fiscal year 1939, was \$153,255.86, states regional forester Lyle F. Watts. In most places, he continues, national forest timber is separated from the market by private holdings, more accessible and as a whole, of better quality than that in public ownership; but as this private timber is cut, the demand for that on the national forests increases. Grant county offers an example of what may be expected as logging operations become more extensive on the National Forests. The county's 25 percent of the forest service receipts amounted to \$49,673.36; all taxes and assessments amounted to \$205,651.49.

"That 25 percent is only a part of it," said Watts. "An additional 10 percent of the receipts, or about \$20,000 was spent for roads and

trails. The county ordinarily would be obliged to attend to that if the forest service did not. About 1,423,000 acres of land were protected from fire at a cost of not less than \$50,000. The forest highway allotment to Oregon, which is based on the acreage of national forests, and is in lieu of taxes, was \$1,254,044, or about nine cents per acre. Expenditures for range management, game management, forest management, and services of that kind also count up.

"Taking it altogether," said Watts, "Grant county gets about as much from the national forests, directly and indirectly, as it gets from the remainder of the county. As forest service business grows, and it seems sure to grow, other counties should find the public forests to be a source of financial strength."

## STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Peeping Prosperity
- Standard Salaries
- Coveted Sands

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem.—If tax returns can be accepted as a fair criterion prosperity must have peeped around the corner at least in Oregon last year. A report by the income tax commission shows that a total of 94,644 tax returns were filed this year as compared to 75,339 last year. Income taxes paid up to April 1, deadline for the first installment, totalled \$3,467,460 compared to \$2,680,179 a year ago.

While the number of taxable returns filed increased only 25.6 percent over those of a year ago taxes paid and reported show an increase of 29.5 percent indicating not only a greater number of persons in the taxable brackets but an increase in individual incomes as well.

The new salary standardization program evolved by Budget Director Eccles has been made effective in 47 state departments and institutions with a total employed personnel of 2466. The program does not apply to the state department, the treasury department nor the attorney general's office, none of

which are under the jurisdiction of the budget director, nor to the highway department, the unemployment compensation commission or the state public welfare commission which are already operating under merit rating systems either of their own making or imposed by the federal government.

The State Board of Forestry is scheduled to meet here Friday at the call of Governor Sprague. It is understood one of the principal items of business to come before the board will be that of the selection of a permanent state forester to relieve Carl Davis of Marshfield who accepted the post under a temporary appointment on January 1 and who is said to be anxious to devote his entire time to his extensive logging and lumbering interests in Coos and Linn counties.

Any attempt on the part of the federal government to obtain possession of Oregon Sands, a small island in the mouth of the Columbia river, will be vigorously opposed by the State Land Board. The board has been advised that the federal authorities regard Oregon Sands as a part of Sand Island which the state ceded to Uncle Sam many years ago as a military base. It is expected the controversy will soon be taken into the courts.

## Motor Vehicles in Oregon Show Gain

Registration of motor vehicles in Oregon totaled 325,831 at the end of February, 1940, a report from the Secretary of State indicated today.

This represents an increase of 18,302 vehicles or 5.59 percent over the registration for the same period in 1939.

Fees so far this year totaled \$2,185,019.46 compared to \$2,039,874.63 last year.

There were 272,124 private passenger cars registered in the state, these cars showing an increase of 5.36 percent.

## MUSIC GROUP MEETS

The Music Study club met at the home of Mrs. J. O. Turner Monday evening, with Mrs. F. W. Turner in charge. Italian music and composers were studied and songs of that language were sung by Mrs. Ture Peterson and Mrs. Russell McNeill. Mrs. Alden Blankenship played Il Trovatore and Mrs. F. W. Turner discussed the composers Verdi, Rossini, Scarlotti and Paganini. Refreshments were served at the conclusion of the program.

## He Learned Soil Saving Early

SOIL conservation is rapidly becoming a leading practice in America since the awakening to the enormous damage to farm land by erosion has become generally understood. Some sections have practiced soil-saving for many years under the direction of land grant colleges and soil specialists, but general practice did not follow until recent years when measures were put in force to combat the terrible effects of the big "blows" in the midwest, more commonly referred to as the "dust bowl."

European countries have practiced soil conservation in one form or another for centuries. That practice was brought to this country by immigrants who, accustomed to preserving the soil on small acreages, could not stand to see the waste that was taking place in the limitless areas of the west. But it remained for an American-born citizen to develop a national plan for measuring erosion and to work out methods of control. That man is Hugh Hammond Bennett, chief of the U. S. Soil Conservation service, of whom Albert W. Atwood writes in The Readers' Digest as follows:

"The chances are that the name of Hugh Hammond Bennett will be better known a hundred years from now than it is today. At 57 he is chief of the U. S. Soil Conservation service, an agency with a \$40,000,000 congressional appropriation, created to carry out the ideas that Bennett has been urging since he entered government service as a soil surveyor for the Department of Agriculture in 1903. He was the first man to develop a national plan for measuring erosion and to work out methods of control. His is the plan and the methods in use today.

"Bennett had learned his soil-

saving lesson early. One of nine children on a self-sustaining North Carolina plantation, he saw his father push their land beyond the limit to provide for their care. Bennett himself ruined 25 acres in an enthusiastic effort to get enough money to go to college.

"For 25 years after college Bennett cried havoc but no one paid any attention to him. He pointed out that preventable erosion increases flood hazards, chokes irrigation ditches, ruins roads; that it involves a measurable loss of \$400,000,000 a year to the farmers. In 1929 congress began to heed his advice and set up the mechanics of soil conservation. But the public remained indifferent until, in May 1934, we had the greatest dust storm ever recorded. Soil from 20900 miles away settled over the capitol dome.

"The Soil Conservation Service was born, with Bennett at its head. Five years of operation have proved the soundness of his ideas. Farmers are learning the value of proper cultivation, terraces, dams; they are using grasses, lespedeza, and trees to anchor soil and check flood waters. Under Bennett's direction, 12,000 workers are assisting them in the new technique of saving the soil.

"After 36 years of government work, Bennett draws \$8000 a year. At any time during those 36 years he could have stepped successfully into the commercial world. But it never occurred to him. He has found public service far too exciting and satisfying to consider giving it up."

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# The STAR REPORTER

## Friday-Saturday

### TWO FISTED RANGERS

with Charles Starrett, Iris Meredith, Sons of the Pioneers  
 Abundant action and fast riding interpolated with cowboy ditties by Sons of the Pioneers—plus

### THE AMAZING MR. WILLIAMS

with Melvyn Douglas, Joan Blondell, Clarence Kolb, Ruth Donnelly, Edward S. Brophy  
 The hilarious story of Mr. Williams who knew everything about law but nothing about murder.

Mother Goose in Swingtime

## Sunday-Monday

VICTOR HUGO'S

### The Hunchback of Notre Dame

with Charles Laughton, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Thomas Mitchell, Maureen O'Hara, Alan Marshal

Weird, wondrous, unbelievable! The strangest, most colorful story ever told!

(Notice to Parents: Nervous or excitable children should not be permitted to attend this program unless accompanied by an adult.)

Newsreel

Cartoon

## Tuesday

PAL NIGHT: 2 adults 35c; 2 children 10c

### MUSIC IN MY HEART

with Tony Martin, Rita Hayworth, Alan Mowbray, Eric Blore, Edith Fellows, Andre Kostelanetz

—and his music. Sons, gayety and romance to delight and entertain you—plus

The Three Stooges as Hailstone, Gallstone and Pebble, satirizing well-known public personalities in

### YOU NAZI SPY

## Wednesday-Thursday, April 17-18

### The Great Victor Herbert

with Allan Jones, Mary Martin, Walter Connolly, Lee Bowman, Jetha Barrett, Susanna Foster

In all popular music history, perhaps there is no composer more beloved, none whose works live on and on while other compositions are written only to be soon forgotten, as Victor Herbert. It is around the tunes and personality of this Irish-American composer that this story is built.

Cartoon

Newsreel

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Nys (Heppner) are invited to present this coupon at the boxoffice for complimentary admissions.

# STAR THEATER

Heppner, Oregon

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