

Heppner Gazette Times

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A Dangerous Measure

One of the most dangerous taxation measures yet to be introduced in this session of the legislature is House bill No. 739 which would exempt from taxation the first \$2500 true cash value of any residence in the state which is owned by the person living therein. Such residence is classified as a "homestead" by the bill.

On the surface the measure might not look so serious, but the actual effect would be to shift the property tax load from all property, regardless of its value, to new, modern homes with higher value, large landowners, rental property and business. How many homes there are in Oregon which do not have a value of over \$2,500, we can not guess, but from the way assessments are made in some counties, there are undoubtedly thousands. These homes would pay no tax at all if this measure passed. There are many more thousands of homes whose value is but little more than the \$2500 and these would pay only a small tax. The owner of a new home would be penalized severely for he, and businesses and big landowners would find themselves footing a much greater share of the tax load than they now do. Conceivably, under this bill, it would be possible for a large family living in a low value home to educate all the children and enjoy all other such advantages and yet not have to pay one dime in property taxes to help support schools, city or county government.

House bill No. 739 is one of the most loaded measures we have yet seen and it could well open up a way to advocates of a state property tax. They could claim, truthfully, that such a tax would not hurt the small property owner, but what it would do to larger landholders, we hate to even think about.

The bill should quickly be killed and buried—deep!

SLANTS FROM THE SESSION

By Nicky Tom

On Wednesday of this week all the wives in the House who send columns to their home town papers (we call ourselves the Hou senews Hens) held a press conference with the Governor.

At the end of the session he told us we asked better questions than the members of the working press, which wasn't true, but sent us out smiling. This business of interviewing notables is not as easy as it appears on the surface. Here are the results of our session:

The Governor still feels that most of his program will be enacted by this legislature. He did not care to guess what this would cost, but he admitted it would be somewhere above the the \$285,000,000 figure toward which the House Taxation and Ways and Means committees are pointing.

When asked how he feels about the treatment he is receiving from the press Governor Holmes stated that on the whole he thinks they are trying to be fair with him. Editorial coverage is inclined to be partisan, as is natural, but he had no complaint to make about straight news reporting.

My question was whether he would care to comment on the rumor that he intends to cut most of the higher education building program out of Governor Smith's budget. He replied, "No, only to the extent that if the higher education budget has to be cut to a lower figure than what they are asking, the cut should come from building rather than salaries."

Commenting on two controversial education measures the Governor told us he is still recommending the \$38,000,000 increase to Basic School Support and believes it will be approved.

He approves the idea behind the Key District plan, but feels that it will be subject to considerable amendment. It may

If Fire Strikes

What would you do if fire destroyed your house?

There is a superficially easy answer to that question. You'd take the insurance money and rebuild. It would be a nuisance, of course, but you wouldn't be out of pocket.

The trouble with this idea is that, in a vast number of cases, it simply isn't true. Legions of homeowners think they are adequately insured against fire and related hazards when they think about the matter at all—but the fact is that their coverage is woefully inadequate.

A simple statistic tells the story. Since the end of the war, government and other tabulations show, average building costs have just about doubled. That is generally true of practically everything inside the walls of a house—furnishings, clothing, appliances and so on. Yet, according to insurance studies, a great many people have unwittingly failed to increase their coverage to compensate. If fires strike, in those cases, there simply won't be enough insurance money to begin to pay for rebuilding.

The remedy for the individual homeowner is to consult with his local professional insurance agent or broker. This man knows values and costs, and he knows just how much insurance each of his clients should carry. And he knows how to fit a fire policy into the total insurance picture.

Maybe So . . .

"Maybe if we ignored the civilized peoples of the earth like we do the uncivilized people we would have no more trouble with the civilized than we do with the uncivilized."—The Aztec, N. M. Independent-Review.

even be replaced by a substitute bill which will be easier on Portland and Eastern Oregon, the bill's principal opponents.

Asked if he would be in favor of designating the Owyhee Lake area as a state park, he said he was not entirely familiar with the State park system, but since Eastern Oregon does not have any state parks he feels that it might be a good idea. He then explained that there will soon be an appointment of a five-man park advisory board, completely apart from the Highway Department to make a study of the establishment of state parks in all parts of the state.

In reply to a question concerning the basis on which he is making his appointments he said he feels that this is one of the most important functions of the Governor in a Board of Commission state. The appointees must have the proper backgrounds and qualifications for the positions they are to fill.

In cases such as the Fair Board he has to confine appointments to districts, one from each Congressional district and one from the state at large. He would prefer to see some of these restrictions lifted, since ease of transportation has prompted many qualified people to move into the suburbs with the result that they often find themselves just across the line from the district in which they work and could therefore represent.

Our final question, probably of more interest to women than men, was on the subject of a Governor's mansion. His opinion seemed to be that while Oregon should and probably will have one eventually, this is not the time to ask for it.

Many of us are chortling today over the humiliating experience suffered last night by a male House member, who shall be

nameless. He had accepted with pleasure his invitation to buffet supper at Governor Holmes' residence tonight. Last night he rushed home and put on his best bib and tucker and drove to the Governor's house, arriving a fashionable five minutes late.

He was somewhat surprised to find so much parking space, but considered himself lucky. When he rang the bell the door was opened by an attractive lady in a housedress, and he asked if this were the Holmes residence. She assured him that it was, and did he have an appointment?

By this time pangs of doubt were beginning to assail him, but since there seemed to be no retreat he told her that he thought he did have an appointment. She invited him to come in and be seated, and in a few moments the Governor walked in, with, as our unfortunate friend put it, "the pained expression of a man whose dinner has been interrupted."

After he understood that the young man had come to dinner a day early Governor Holmes, obviously trying to help the poor guy over a rough spot, insisted that he at least have a cup of coffee with them and their three guests.

Feeling that it might be ungracious to refuse, the unhappy man followed his host and wound up eating a whole dinner, after the other five had finished. They drank coffee and tried to chat, but for once our friend's ready wit deserted him. In his words, "I couldn't think of a thing to say."

I sincerely hope the young man realizes how fortunate he was that his wife was not along on that excursion. She would, undoubtedly, have clobbered him. Now the big question is—will he work up the courage to go to dinner tonight? Concluding installment next week.

From The County Agent's Office

By N. C. Anderson

The announcement was recently made that the American Society of Range Management sponsored range youth camp will be held this year at the Tupper guard station in Morrow county. The dates for the camp are July 29 to August 3. This range youth camp has been in operation over the past eight or ten years with older boys from Eastern Oregon attending. Forty to fifty boys have attended each year and are taught various aspects of range management during the week long camp. Morrow county has sent a number of boys to the camp during its years of operation. Many of the details for a successful camp in 1957 will be left to local ranchers and agency personnel here.

With the advent of spring a number of grass and alfalfa plantings have been made during the past week. Roger Kincaid, Marion Palmér, Earl McKinney and Don Peterson, Ione; Alvin Wagenblast and Baker Brothers, Lexington are among the farmers making these seedings.

Considerable interest has been shown of late in hog production here in Morrow county. Perhaps one of the big reasons for this increased interest is the fact that Portland hog prices have moved back about \$20 where they are likely to stay for several months. This recent improvement followed peak of marketing from the nations fall pig crop.

Like many farm enterprises the person who jumps in and out of a specific commodity will find themselves, usually, ending up on the short end of things. Economists predict that hog prices of 1957 are likely to stay below their winter high while marketings from last fall's crop are largest, then rise seasonably later in the spring. In the latter months of 1957, margin over a year earlier is likely to be considerably less. If this is right it would be hard to get in and out at the right time.

For those who are interested in hog production over a long period of time one of the first recommendations in getting into the business is to get into the type of hogs which are now in demand. Perhaps the most progress of any type of livestock improvement has been made in hogs. Over the past several years a number of new breeds have been developed which have

been brought about by cross breeding and selection for the qualities which are in demand by the packer and consumers. At the same time this improvement has increased the ability to farrow larger litters, make faster gains and produce more lean meat cuts. In getting started one of the important selection that need be made is the boar. A meat type boar will sire market hogs that grade high on foot and yield a better value to the consumer. In selecting a good boar one looks for satisfactory length, not the extreme, but longer than the market barrows a farmer expects from the average sow. Another item to check for is a good top line, trim under line, uniform width from front to rear, plus a well sprung rib and width in the chest. A third thing you want to look for is rugged bone, not coarse, plus sound feet and legs set with one on each corner so the boar walks away straight with no "joint". Commercial breeders needn't worry much about breed, color, head and ear but it is well for a buyer to remember that a boar doesn't look masculine with a long thin neck and narrow head. Buy a boar that looks like a "he" boar. A hog producer should buy a boar from a certified and uniformly good litter. Back-fat and growth data on the balance of the litter and on other pigs from the same sire help in the selection just as much as feed conversion record.

Lawrence and Kenneth Palmer have found again this year that a profit can be made on calves fed through the winter on home grown grain and hay. They were offered a top market price last fall for their weaner calves but decided to hold them over and feed them barley and alfalfa hay of which they had a good supply. Last Friday the steers brought \$21.30 per hundred, the heifers brought \$17.70. This increase in price over last fall's market coupled with a good daily gain made a substantial profit for the Palmers. Six pounds of barley per head per day was fed with all of the alfalfa hay they would clean up. With the slow hay market this winter and spring the Palmers also realized much by being able to market their hay through the calves. While not all of our livestock producers are set up to carry out this practice of feeding calves especially if they have a quan-

tity of home produced feed which might be in surplus. With a great number of cow herds sold and with livestock men looking for feeder stuff to pasture, feeders and stockers are in good demand this spring. It appears as though this demand might increase some each year if trends continue as they have over the past few years.

Even though the rain came this month which broke a 46 year record for moisture during the month of March farmers were happy to see some sunshine this week. With the sun comes a lot of activity in farm jobs, weed control being one that is most timely. In making inquiries early this week it sounds like there are going to be some disappointed farmers when the weed spraying season has passed. As in past years there are commercial sprayers in the county quoting complete cost jobs on a per acre basis. Many farmers are going to find that the cheaper quoted price jobs are going to be the most expensive. As we have constantly reminded farmers during the past several years a pound of 2,4-D acid is a pound of 2,4-D acid regardless whether it comes from one pound or a six pound per gallon preparation. One type of 2,4-D acid is effective as another, results from many years of research on-the-farm experiments have repeatedly shown.

A few recommendations are in order to protect those farmers who want a good job of weed control rather than the cheapest price per acre application. This advice is: 1. with the lateness of season, application on hard to kill weeds such as tar weed and blue mustard should approach one pound of acid per acre. In no case should the application go below 3/4 pound per acre. This is easily figured if you know the pounds of acid per gallon material you are using. 2. Spray on a quiet day with the temperature preferably above 45 degrees, the warmer the better results. 3. The closer the 2,4-D is applied to the ground the more chances of complete coverage of weeds there (Continued from page 2)

THIRTY YEARS AGO

From Files of the Gazette Times April 7, 1927

Mrs. Josie Jones returned home on Sunday from Pendleton where she visited for several weeks at the home of her sister, Mrs. Wilson F. Brock.

The home of J. W. Cowins was the scene of a pleasant party Monday evening when a party of Knights of Pythias made him a surprise visit in honor of his 86th birthday.

Charles W. Smith, who is expected to become the new county agent for Morrow county by about the first of May, was a visitor here over the weekend from his home at Dufur.

Leonard Carlson and Jesse Warfield, farmers of the Gooseberry section were attending to business affairs in Heppner on Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Leathers and Wayne Leathers of Parkers Mill were visiting Mr. and Mrs. Owen Leathers at Hardman Sunday.

A bold piece of thievery took place at the Henry Krebs ranch on Willow creek above Heppner on Sunday evening, and as a result Henry was minus three bags of tag wool amounting in all to about 1000 pounds, when he made an investigation on Monday morning.

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ness of ride and other driving qualities you want in a car.

Then, Chevy won the Pure Oil Performance Trophy at Daytona (left, below) as "best performing U. S. automobile."

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John Bromfield, Beverly Garland

Sun., Mon., April 7-8

The Girl He Left Behind

Tab Hunter, Natalie Wood, Jessie Royce Landis, Jim Mackay, Sunday at 4, 6:15, 8:30

Tues., Wed., April 9-10

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