

Assessors Hit Reader's Digest Story

The Oregon State Association of County Assessors, through its president, C. R. (Hap) Caldwell of Klamath Falls, has officially protested an article which appeared in a recent edition of The Reader's Digest regarding unfair tax assessments on real property, according to Oliver Creswick, Morrow County Assessor and a member of the State Association.

The article listed four states as "blazing a trail of fair, honest appraisals," but omitted Oregon, despite the fact that Oregon is regarded by tax authorities throughout the nation as having one of the best property tax administrations in existence.

In a letter to the editors of The Reader's Digest and The American Home, the latter published the original article, the Oregon Assessors said:

"The article succeeded in pointing out many unfairnesses resulting from inept appraisals in some parts of the country, and consequently it might stimulate needed reforms in those areas.

"However, the Oregon State Association of County Assessors, which encompasses all our state's 36 counties, feels that the article's authors did a disservice to our members, to the Oregon State Tax Commission, to our County Boards of Equalization, to our courts, and to the legislators of countless sessions by failing to mention Oregon in the list of states who are blazing a trail of fair, honest appraisals."

"By this omission, it is implied that Oregon is guilty of the many sins attributed to incapable and/or dishonest administrators of the property tax in our nation.

"Nothing could be farther from the truth. Ever since 1844, when the first Oregon settlers adopted a property tax to finance its provisional government, no effort has been spared to improve the administration of this tax, which still is one of the state's

major revenue sources."

The letter pointed to the state-wide property reappraisal program, initiated by the Oregon State Tax Commission in 1951, as having progressed much farther than similar projects attempted by a few other states. Oregon's arrangement is a partnership affair between the counties and the Tax Commission, with each putting up one-half the necessary funds. The program has passed the three-fourths mark, with 24 counties completed and nine in various stages of revaluation.

The Oregon Assessors pointed out that in 1954 the Tax Commission received the annual distinguished Assistance Award of the National Association of Assessing Officers for "this splendid program."

It was also noted that similar recognition of Oregon's reappraisal efforts had come from many other sources, including Dr. John F. Sly, director of Princeton University and one of the nation's top experts.

In a 1958 survey of Oregon's entire tax structure, Dr. Sly praised the reappraisal project and recommended that "every possible assistance be given to the State Tax Commission in the form of authority, and funds to develop and maintain the state-wide reappraisal program."

The Oregon Assessors also stated that this program is not the only thing being done in the state to assure property taxpayers of a fair tax break.

Cited were the inservice training schools conducted by the Tax Commission for county assessors, county Boards of equalization, and county property tax collectors. Also mentioned was the annual Appraisal Short Course, a five-day session conducted by the Commission in cooperation with Oregon State University, with the Oregon Assessors participating in the planning.

The letter of protest further stated that the county level assessors and their appraisers are constantly striving to reach equitable values on all property. It added that the law now requires all county appraisers to be certified by passing a State Civil Service examination, and that minimum salary scales have been set up to attract competent personnel.

The county appraisers have formed their own organization, the Society of Certified Appraisers of Oregon, with the goal of improving techniques and practices in assessments.

The county assessors, individually and through their association, the letter said, spare no effort to achieve fairness and efficiency in their part of the property tax administration. They hold district meetings quarterly to discuss current matters, after which their advisory committee meets with the Tax Commission to talk over and resolve mutual problems. The result has been greater uniformity of assessment practices throughout the state, according to the assessors.

The letter points out that Oregon has a highly equitable appeal system whereby taxpayers can protest what they regard as unfair assessments.

"In view of the foregoing data," the letter concludes, "perhaps you can see why our association and other tax administrators feel that Oregon was treated unjustly by being left out of the list of states which your article said were trying to do something about unfair assessments."

Mrs. Max Harris met her husband at Nampa, Idaho following a three week stay in Pocatello, Idaho, arriving home on Wednesday. Mrs. Harris was called to Idaho due to the serious illness of her father, Ira Hays. She visited in Pocatello and Lava Hot Springs, Idaho

Lexington PTA Elects, Hears Program

Mrs. Bob Kilkenny was re-elected president of the Lexington PTA at its business meeting and program last Tuesday night at the Lexington school.

Other officers elected for the next year were Mrs. George Steagall, vice-president; June Davidson, secretary, and Mrs. Bob Davidson, treasurer.

Drama students of Mrs. Janet Groves presented cuttings from familiar plays as the program for the evening.

Linda Van Winkle dramatized excerpts from "George Washington Slept Here," and Mary Shannon gave cuttings from the familiar play, "You Can't Take It With You." Shirley Carlson, accompanied by Carol Burkenbine, sang a vocal solo, "Tummy."

Members Hear Science Reports At PTA Meet

Willard Staley, Heppner High school science teacher, spoke before 17 PTA members last Wednesday night on the Science Fair held March 6 and 7. He explained how the exhibits are divided into four groups for judging. Outstanding exhibits were shown in the district fair in Pendleton this past week-end.

Staley introduced Shannon Mahoney, Steve Peck, and Kenney Peck who each explained their projects and how they made them. Don Cole, junior high science teacher, introduced Martha Peck, Jack Ray, and Jim Barclay from the junior division who also talked about their projects.

Both teachers expressed thanks for the cooperation given them for the fair and said they had profited from the experience this year and plan for a bigger and better showing next spring.

Mrs. Ed Dick, PTA president-elect, had charge of the meeting due to the absence of president Bob Hopper. Mrs. Dick reported on the Midland Council PTA meeting held in Fossil recently.

Installation of officers is slated for the May meeting when a children's program depicting the May Day theme will be presented.

Room count was won by Don Cole's seventh grade. Easter refreshments were served by the second grade mothers.

Back home again after spending the winter in Eugene with her daughters and families is Mrs. Charles Barlow. She returned home Friday, March 30, after being gone for five months.

Models Display Variety of Spring Styles Available

Six Heppner business places outfitted 34 models with smart, colorful, and fashionable clothing, as they appeared before a large crowd in the "Salute to Spring" open-air style revue conducted on Heppner Main street on April 14.

Esther Kirmis, Morrow county extension agent, coordinated and narrated the show that featured fashions and accessories from MLadies, J. C. Penny, Wilson's Men's Wear, Elma's Apparel, Gonty's Shoes, and Peterson's Jewelry.

The spring fashions showed a growing trend toward softness and intricate cut; most feminine and flattering. Colors were fresh, clear and clean—the colors of fruit, flowers, fruit or a glass of cool sherbet. No single outline marked the silhouette. The easy casual look and the straight sheath were both evident. Coats had cardigan necklines, a neat, gently widening fit. Sports and beach clothes were bright and vivid in the oranges and deep reds.

Even men's fashions got into the act with four young men modeling an Italian inspired suit, sports coat and slacks, casual and western wear.

The interested audience agreed that many of the well-known brands of clothing were available from the Heppner merchants as are found in larger places.

Models for the revue included: Young Casuals—Leora Van Winkle, Linda Thornburg, Sheridan Wyman, Barbara Blake, and Linda Warren.

Coats—Mrs. Andy Van Schoiack, Mrs. Bud Marshall, Mrs. Marshall Lovgren.

Children's Clothing—Danny and Katherine Marshall.

Mother-daughter Combination—Mrs. Morgan Conners and Tracy.

Sports—Joan Stockard, Mary Campbell, Mona Lisa Marshall, Terry Whitesmith, Tanna Valentine, and Mrs. Bob Jones.

Junior Casuals—Sue Griffith and Sherri O'Brien.

Bathing Suits—Linda Heath and Jeanette Ledbetter.

Suits—Marlene Fetsch, Mrs. William Heath, Judy Smith, and Mrs. Pat O'Brien.

Western Wear—Dianne Fullerton and Gary Van Blokland.

Men's Wear—Kenny Smith, LeRoy Gardner and John Cleveland.

Semi-Formals—Beverly Blake, Lynn Burkenbine and Judy Schmidt.

The Gazette-Times appreciates receiving news copy as early in the week as possible.

Club Studies Posture

The fourth meeting of the Super Suters was held April 4, with Mary Pierce, vice-president, presiding.

We discussed how to sit, stand, walk, and turn correctly. Mrs. Van Schoiack also showed us how to cover shoes to match our clothes.

Those present were Ruby Fullerton, Mary Pierce, Marie Hoskins, Linda Heath, Linda Clark, Margaret Green and Tamara Smith. Linda Heath, reporter

Left For Oklahoma

Mrs. Thelma Henderson, widow of Roy Laverne Henderson of Butter Creek who died March 28 in Pendleton, left last Thursday for Oklahoma City, Okla., to make her home with a son, Harlan Henderson, for whom services were held in Wallowa, March 31, formerly was employed on the place of his brother-in-law, Raymond French.

Public Notices

SUMMONS Equity No. 4581

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR MORROW COUNTY

IRA NORMAN NELSON and JEAN E. NELSON, husband and wife, and ALFRED H. NELSON, JR. and HELEN E. NELSON, husband and wife,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

CHARLES ALLINGER and JANE DOE ALLINGER, his wife, or if said CHARLES ALLINGER is deceased, then the unknown heirs of CHARLES ALLINGER, deceased; CHARLES T. TOOZE and JANE DOE TOOZE, husband and wife, or if said CHARLES T. TOOZE is deceased, then the unknown heirs of CHARLES T. TOOZE, deceased; LETTIE G. TOOZE and JOHN DOE TOOZE, wife and husband,

or if said LETTIE G. TOOZE is deceased, then the unknown heirs of LETTIE G. TOOZE, deceased, and all other persons or parties unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real property described in the complaint herein.

Defendants.

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

Charles Allinger and Jane Doe Allinger, his wife, or if said Charles Allinger is deceased, then the unknown heirs of Charles Allinger, deceased; Charles T. Tooze and Jane Doe Tooze, husband and wife, or if said Charles T. Tooze is deceased, then the unknown heirs of Charles T. Tooze, deceased; Lettie G. Tooze and John Doe Tooze, wife and husband, or if said Lettie G. Tooze is deceased, then the unknown heirs of Lettie G. Tooze, deceased, and all other persons or parties

unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real property described in the complaint herein.

IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON:

You are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled Court and cause within four weeks from the date of the first publication of this summons, and if you fail to so appear and answer for want thereof, plaintiffs will apply to the said Court for the relief prayed for and demanded in said complaint, to-wit:

A decree that the mortgages and assignments thereof recorded in Book 33, page 204; book 33, page 206; book 37, page 211; book 38, page 450 of the Mortgage Records of Morrow County, Oregon, be found to be clouds upon the title of the plaintiffs and decreed to be no longer valid and subsisting and that they be decreed to be satisfied of record and no longer constitute a lien upon the following described real property and that the owners and holders of said mortgages be decreed to have no interest in or lien upon the real property herein after described by virtue of said mortgages or any of them, which real property is described as follows:

PARCEL NO. I. The Southwest Quarter of Section 1; the Northwest quarter of Section 12; Township 2 South, Range 23, East of the Willamette Meridian, in the County of Morrow, State of Oregon.

PARCEL NO. II. Government lots 1, 2, 3, 4, the South half of the North half of Section 2; the Southeast quarter of Section 2; the East half of Section 11; the Northwest quarter of Section 14; all in Township 2 South, Range 23, East of the Willamette Meridian, in the County of Morrow, State of Oregon.

For a further decree that the plaintiffs are the contract purchasers of the real property hereinabove described and are entitled to possession thereof all free and clear of any and all right, title, estate, lien, or interest of the defendants denominated, "all other persons or parties unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real property described in the complaint herein" and each of them thereto.

For a further decree that the defendants denominated "all other persons or parties unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real property described in the complaint herein" or any one or more of them, have no right, title, estate, lien or interest of any kind or nature whatsoever in and to said real property or any part thereof and that said defendants and each of them be perpetually restrained and enjoined from asserting or claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest of any kind or nature in and to said real property or any part thereof adverse to the plaintiffs and for such other and further relief as to the Court may seem meet and equitable in the premises.

This summons is served upon you by publication thereof for four successive weeks in the Heppner Gazette-Times by order of the Judge of the above entitled Court, which order was made and entered the 4th day of April, 1962, and the date of the first publication of this summons is the 5th day of April, 1962.

CUNHA & MOSGROVE Attorneys at Law P. O. Box 806 Pendleton, Oregon 5-9c



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