



Salem Scene

by Robert H. Eisner

Activity in the Legislature is picking up. In the weeks ahead, an increasing number of bills will be returned from committees—usually after lengthy discussion and public hearings—to the House and Senate floors. There, the issues will be debated and voted upon.

Final hearings have concluded on a number of bills; a good many more will be heard early this month.

Nearly 400 persons attended a public hearing last week on the controversial Sunday-closing bill (H. B. 1256) before the House Planning and Development Committee. Most witnesses spoke in favor of the proposal and urged the legislators to take action rather than referring it to a popular vote of the people. Lack of time prevented many people from testifying.

As a result, a second hearing has been set for Wednesday, March 13, in Room 6 of the Capitol Building at 3 p. m. Persons planning to attend should arrive early. Many late-comers at last week's crowded session were unable to get in.

The House Taxation Committee is spending long hours in discussion and public hearings on the many tax proposals. Meeting each afternoon, as well as two evenings a week, this important group will ultimately shape a program to raise up to \$50 million in additional state revenue over the next two years.

Most observers predict the final form will be a broader-based income tax and a cigarette tax of about four cents per pack. Chances for a sales tax seem dim because: (1) Oregonians traditionally have opposed it, and (2) it would not produce enough money by itself. This means the income tax could not be eliminated even if a sales tax were adopted.

On the subject of protests, almost 350 logging truck operators turned out for a recent public hearing on a bill to increase highway use taxes on some trucks. The mob, which overflowed the hearing room into the hall, cheered as 14 witnesses charged that the proposal discriminates against log trucks.

The witnesses claimed that they operate on secondary and often poorly-maintained roads, yet must pay the same license fees as trucks which operate on primary highways. They also complained that log trucks are denied use of highways on week-ends and holidays, while busses and other trucks operate anytime. Log trucks, it was voiced, pay the same federal use tax as trucks driving many more miles per year over improved highways.

No witness testified in support of the bill. Another crowd in excess of 300 turned out for a public hearing on the "Liberty Amendment," which would forbid certain activities of the Federal Government and abolish the personal tax.

This throng, too, was vigorously one-sided in support of the measure. Most testimony favored it. One witness who opposed it was booed. But the House State and Federal Affairs Committee, by a 6-3 vote, killed the proposal—at least for this session—by tabling it. A pair of bills, H. B. 1463, relating to property taxation were introduced last month. One would exempt labor union halls and labor temple associations from taxation. The other bill would remove present tax exemptions from churches and benevolent, charitable and

scientific institutions. What makes it even more interesting—or confusing—is that both bills have the same principal sponsor, Representative Richard Eymann (D-Marcola). It raises the theory of a possible "double standard," if nothing else.

And a daylight savings time bill saw light in the Senate last month. It would extend DST to the last week-end in October, to conform with the surrounding Pacific Coast states. Oregon's voters readily approved DST in last year's elections, only as accepted then, the cutoff date was to be the final week-end in September. The bill's 40 sponsors believe Oregonians will agree that daylight savings time should begin and end uniformly in all Pacific Coast states.

With more and more decisions facing Oregon's 30 Senators and 60 Representatives in the weeks ahead, the importance of correspondence from the people "back home" cannot be overemphasized. Legislators are elected by the people, and these lawmakers want to know what the people are thinking.

Citizens who don't express themselves to their legislators have no room to complain when an unfavorable law is passed.

February Report Shows No Snow

General outlook for streamflow in Morrow county can be expected to be extremely short due to no snowpack in the mountains, Ralph Richards, Soil Conservationist says. This year the snowpack equals the record low of 1934. However, the ground is saturated which will help maintain streamflow during the early irrigation season.

February snow report depth of snow is as follows: 10 year average, 29.5 inches; high (1956), 51.2 inches; low (1963), none; (1960), 34 inch; (1961), 23.96 inches; (1962), 37 inches. Water content: 10 year average, 9.27 inches; high (1956), 15.2 inches; low (1963), none; (1960), 8.6 inches; (1961), 6 inches; (1962), 9 inches.

Soil moisture: 1961 was 83 per cent of capacity; 1962 was 74 per cent of capacity; 1963 is 90 per cent of capacity. "Moisture may not be as short as in 1934 even though we measure no more snow, but the water that was lost to the Columbia River this winter will surely be needed," Richards said.

Boardman News

John Summers and son Ronnie were recent visitors in Weiser, Idaho at the home of his mother, Mrs. S. L. Summers, and in Huntington at the home of his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Summers.

Riverside High school and Boardman Grade school will be dismissed March 20-22 for spring vacation.

Menus for Riverside High school and Boardman Grade school for the week of March 11-15 are as follows: Monday—hot dogs, buttered corn, beets and cobbler; Tuesday—stew and biscuits, salad and fruit jello; Wednesday—soup and sandwiches, cottage cheese and fruit; Thursday—turkey, potatoes and gravy, spinach, rolls and fruit; Friday—potato soup, tuna fish sandwiches, cheese sticks and pineapple upside down cake. Bread, butter and milk are served with all meals.

Student Chosen for Institute

By MARY LEE MARLOW

BOARDMAN — Allyn Hobbs, Riverside high school junior, and an honor student, has been accepted as one of eight boys in the state to attend the junior engineers and scientists summer institute at Oregon State University at Corvallis June 9-22. The course puts the pieces together—what college courses, what in science, how many years of training, "Am I interested in science?", "Am I interested in engineering?", what is research in the sciences, which high school courses, which college?

Churches To Observe 4-H Week March 10 will be observed as 4-H Sunday at both the Community church and the Good Shepherd Lutheran church. Services will be at 11 a.m. at the Community, and at 7 p.m. at the Lutheran church. Club leaders and members will attend as a group.

"Underwater Wonders," a National School Assembly, was presented in the school gymnasium last Friday morning by Mrs. Jean Kananui, who is associated with Scripps Institute of Oceanography at La Jolla, Calif. She showed SCUBA diving techniques, and her diving equipment, and told of thrilling experiences in marine life.

The Cool Cooking Cats 4-H foods club entertained with a Mother's Tea last week at the home of their leader, Mrs. James Harper, with Dewena West, junior leader, assisting. Special guest was Esther Kirmis, county extension agent of Heppner. Club members demonstrated how to make sandwiches. Mothers present included Mrs. Melvin Rayner, Mrs. Lyle Williams, Mrs. Wayne Millard, Mrs. Roy Ball, and Mrs. William Crews.

In honor of 4-H Week March 2-9 the club made posters to display at a local service station.

Mrs. Ted Talbot, second grade teacher at Boardman school, took 13 of her pupils on a tour of the local post office last Thursday. Postmaster Flossie Coats demonstrated to them the different phases of operating her office. Each one was allowed to cancel a facing slip to take home as a souvenir.

Henry Gantenbein went to Portland to attend the annual meeting Tuesday of the Mayflower Farms (formerly Dairy Co-operative Association) at the plant auditorium. Gantenbein has been elected to a three year term as a member of the board of directors from district nine. Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Ely were hosts for a farewell party at their home Saturday evening in honor

of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Zivney, who have moved to Portland. The Zivney's were overnight guests at the Ely home. Other guests included Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Fortner, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Anderegg, Mr. and Mrs. Armin Hug and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rash and daughter Diane.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Woosley and son Armen of Willard, Wn., were week-end visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Munger. Mrs. Keith Ferguson was seriously ill in the Good Shepherd hospital in Hermiston last week. She is recuperating at home.

Mrs. Earl Briggs returned home last Thursday from a week's stay in St. Anthony's hospital in Pendleton.

Frank Marlow was ill with pneumonia at his home last week.

Mrs. Louise Earwood was honored on the occasion of her birthday Sunday afternoon when a group of friends surprised her with a party. Present were Mrs. Cecil Hamilton, Mrs. Lowell Shattuck, Mrs. Don Downey, Mrs. Nathan Thorpe, Mrs. Frank Marlow, Mrs. Claud Coats, Mrs. Zeal Gillespie and Mrs. Florence Root.

Mrs. Joe Tatone went to Salem Monday where she was to attend a day in Legislature representing the 7th District of the Oregon Federation of Women's

clubs. The day was to include a tea with Mrs. Mark Hatfield, wife of the governor of Oregon. The Home Economics club of Greenfield Grange will meet March 13 at the home of Mrs. Claud Worden, with Mrs. Earl Briggs as co-hostess.

Greenfield Grange will meet at the hall March 14, starting with potluck supper at 6:30 p.m. Hosts will be Mr. and Mrs. Claud Worden and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Briggs.

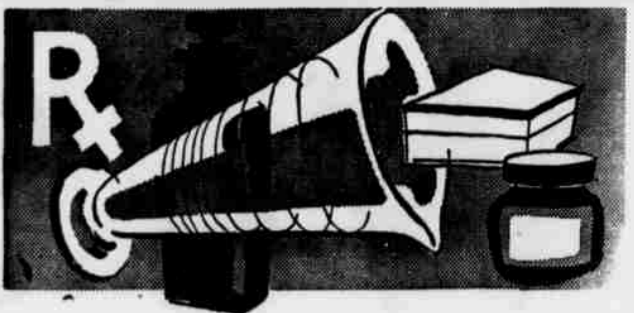
Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Woolley of Pasco, Wn., and their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Danny Latham of Kalohtus, Wn., visited Sunday at the home of Mrs. Woolley's brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Eades.

Week-end visitors at the home of Mrs. Bob Miller was her granddaughter, Roberta Phillips of The Dalles, and her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Gaede of Gresham. Monday visitors were Mrs. Miller's nephew, Allen Chase, and Ralph Stone of Gresham.

Frank Jones of Vancouver, Wn., visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Allen last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Agee of Umatilla visited Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Agee.

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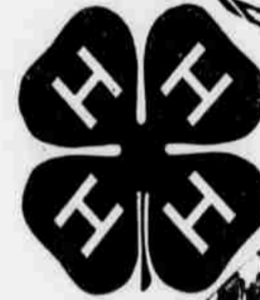
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