

# Local Landowners Testify For Bill to Lower Patrol Tax

Representatives of the cattle and wool growers associations, the timber industry, fire protection groups and individual taxpayers, attended a hearing of House Bill 1477 by House Ways and Means Sub-Committee No. 3 at the legislature in Salem on Thursday, April 18. Committee Chairman was Rep. Stafford Hansell.

Representative Jack Smith, a sponsor of the bill, testified the measure would recognize the ever increasing public use of private lands and would place a ceiling of 5c an acre for fire patrol tax on grazing lands and a 7½c per acre ceiling on timber lands. He said grazing operations now pay 5c an acre for protection but those in timbered areas pay up to 15c an acre. Rep. Smith cited 1962 fire statistics which showed 705 fires over 8,542 acres. Of these, 127 fires were caused by lightning, 638 were man caused. The general public was responsible for 38% of these fires, the landowner 36%, lightning 16%, railroads 6.8% and miscellaneous causes totaled 3.2%.

Wm. H. Steiwer, Sr., of Fos-

sil, testified of ever increasing costs of fire patrol tax to the landowner and the need for more fiscal control of the budgets.

Allen Nistad, of Kinzua Corporation, representing Eastern Oregon Timber Owners, said landowners paid 1.5c fire patrol tax per acre in 1934, 3.5c in 1944, 7.5c in 1954 and 15c in 1962. Nistad furnished statistics to show the Central Oregon Fire District, headquartered at Prineville, employed 38 men from three to 12 months to furnish fire patrol protection at a salary cost of \$98,671.00. An additional \$18,512.00 is charged for suppression crews and any additional fire fighting crews and expenses are charged the following year. He suggested that, if the general fund gave assistance, these personnel could be assigned additional duties by the State of Oregon in administering forestry and tax laws. He cited increased use of private lands by the public and mentioned the 17,000 people who traveled to Bull Prairie reservoir, adjacent to Kinzua lands, in its first year of operation.

The Oregon Cattlemen's association, represented by Larry Williams of Canyon City and Earl Smith of Mitchell, testified landowners are paying more for fire patrol tax than they are for ad valorem tax on the land. They spoke of the great financial responsibility placed on the landowner for fire protection and the additional costs incurred by the late hunting season.

George Rugg, Heppner, President of Oregon Wool Growers association, confirmed the testimony of other witnesses and presented his own tax statements to the committee for study of the effect of fire patrol tax on his grazing operations.

Glen Parsons, chief forester for Boise-Cascade Corporation at La Grande, testified the 100% payment of fire patrol costs by Oregon landowners was a situation unique in the western part of the United States. Parsons recommended favorable action by the committee and urged follow-up by the State Forestry Department in creating better defined fire districts and elimination of duplication and overlapping of fire districts by State and Federal agencies.

Jim Corlett, Oregon Forest Protective association, endorsed the measure and testified the same ceiling is now in effect on lands in Eastern Washington. Other witnesses appearing before the committee were C. V. Schott, Larry Wade and Grant Wade of Condon, Wheeler County Commissioner John Collins of Mitchell, David Don of Salem, Thos. J. Orr of Klamath Falls and Steve Eymann, Western Oregon Livestock Growers association and the Oregon Farm Bureau.

After hearing the testimony of the witnesses, the chairman announced he would call in State Forestry Department officials and fiscal officers to determine the financial impact of the bill on state funds.

Following the hearing, some members of the group were advised by State Forester Dwight Phipps that \$380,000.00 had been included in his budget for assistance by the general fund in recognition of public use but that it had been stricken by the Department of Finance. He said this action caused additional personnel to be charged to local fire patrol taxes.

## Cleanup Week!



## Monument

MONUMENT — Mrs. Helen Brown and daughter, Mrs. Norma Walter of Boise, Idaho, arrived Sunday afternoon, April 14. They will return to Boise April 29 for Mrs. Brown's checkup after having had surgery last month.

Mrs. Clifford Howell and son Sam, and Gene Hunt drove to Heppner Monday for seed grain. Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Boyer drove to Arlington last Wednesday on business.

Mrs. Doris Vinson was in Pendleton last Thursday on a business trip.

Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Dulaney and three daughters returned home last Thursday night from Fresno, Calif., where they attended the wedding of Mrs. Dulaney's niece, Miss Elaine Reynolds, on Monday, April 15. The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Stella McCarty.

Mr. and Mrs. Mead Gilman spent Easter Sunday with their son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Gilman, at Condon.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Sweek of Ridgefield, Wn., were recent visitors with their son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sweek, also with Earl's mother, Mrs. Claude Sweek at Prairie City and with another son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Sweek at Mt. Vernon.

Mrs. Vera Gardner and Mrs. Murd Stubblefield drove to Portland to attend a wedding in the family a week ago.

Maynard Hamilton has received word that his sister, Mrs. E. Banta, has returned to her home from Boise, Idaho, where she underwent surgery three weeks ago.

## Oregon Beef Council To Consider Budget

The regular meeting of the Oregon Beef Council will be held Friday, May 3, at the Beef Council headquarters, Imperial Hotel, in Portland, according to Richard Westerberg, chairman.

At this meeting the council will consider the recommendations of the budget committee for the proposed 1963-64 Oregon Beef Council budget. Also on the agenda, for consideration of the council, will be the beef carcass display case which the public relations committee of the Beef Council will recommend. The meeting, which starts at 1:30 p.m., is open to the public.

Father and Mrs. C. Bruce Spencer were in Baker over the week-end.

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## Savings Bonds Sales Show Gain

"Purchases of United States Savings Bonds in this county for March amounted to \$8,635," according to a report issued here today by County Savings Bonds Committee Chairman Jack Bedford. "Sales of E and H Bonds for the entire state totaled \$2,943,438, bringing first-quarter sales in Oregon to a total of \$9,777,677. The State had a 9.5% increase for the first quarter of the year, with 22 counties ahead of their sales at this point a year ago."

"Our national Freedom Bond Drive opens May 1," the chairman reported. "Its objective during the two-month period will be to sell one or more extra bonds to every American family. 'Buying a bond for the Freedom Bond Drive may seem to some as a minor contribution to vital issues our nation faces today. Collectively it is far from minor; the widespread sale of Savings Bonds plays a key part in the strength of our economy, which in turn support our defense efforts.'"

## April 29 Deadline Set For 4-H Applications

4-H Summer school applications are due in the county agent's office on Monday, April 29, reports Joe Hay, Morrow county extension agent.

Nearly ninety 4-H members in the county have met requirements making them eligible to apply for the week-long event June 10-15 on the Oregon State University campus in Corvallis. Morrow county has a quota of 27 delegates that will be attending this event.

"Four-H members must send in their 4-H Permanent Record Sheet and a Local Leader Report Form for a completed application," Hay said. A committee of 4-H leaders and parents will meet April 30 to select the 27 delegates from the applications sent in. Club members will then be notified if they have been selected as a delegate for summer school.

Boxed typing paper reasonably priced at the Gazette-Times.

## Irrigon Extension Plans for Festival

IRRIGON—The April Home Extension Unit meeting opened with the chairman asking each of the 23 ladies present to give her name and where she attended school. Mrs. Vern Dillon requested the ladies to save MJB and Folger coffee bands for the Irrigon Grange. Mrs. Paul Slaughter reported on the county committee meeting, and she and Mrs. Cliff Anderson were appointed to take charge of the Irrigon display at the County Homemakers Festival at Heppner, May 15.

May 22 was announced as the county committee meeting at the John Graves home in Hardman, with all alumni officers being invited. The drawing was held for the clothes hamper, stocked with linens and household articles, for which the unit has been selling raffle tickets, and Mrs. Elmer Zehner was the lucky winner.

Irrigon delegates to the State Homemakers Convention to be held in Corvallis April 30, May 1-2, are Mrs. Mary Adams and Mrs. Perry Pummel.

New officers to be installed at the County Homemakers Festival May 15 will be: Mrs. Mary Adams, chairman; Mrs. Dean Acock, vice chairman; Mrs. George Sawyer, secretary; Mrs. Perry Pummel, treasurer. The project for April, "Care of Your Sewing Machine," was presented by County Agent Esther Kirms.

The Busy Bees 4-H club met at the home of Mrs. Joe Hausler on April 11. We discussed our patterns and materials. Betty Hausler demonstrated how to pin the pattern to the materials. Maureen McElligott gave a report on safety in the home. Mrs. Hausler was our visitor. By the next meeting we are supposed to have our patterns and material.

Maureen McElligott, reporter

## Club Studies Patterns

The Phil Mahoneys, Eddie Gundersons, Lowell Gribbles, Clint McQuarries, and Maurice Browns drove to Hood River Friday to play golf at Welch's but due to the snow they went into Portland for the week-end.

## Country Cutters

An afternoon meeting of the Country Cutters 4-H club was held at Linda Pettyjohn's home on April 20. Sandra opened the meeting by asking Molly Beckett and Mary Campbell to lead the flag salutes. Roll call was answered by each member naming her most difficult part in making her skirt. Betty Carlson had the members divide up into teams and judge buttons and seams.

Our leader had us sign a thank you note to the Morrow County Grain Growers for the 4-H calendars they gave us. We had five visitors.

Linda Pettyjohn, reporter

# FORGETS IMPORTANT DATE



This quick-thinking young wife, who forgot her mother-in-law's birthday till the last moment, didn't send an "I forgot" card or whip up a belated fudge cake. She just called her mother-in-law by long distance (after 6 p.m., when rates were lower), and the whole family said "Happy Birthday!" Why don't you spread some joy among your kinfolk, by long distance, this evening? PACIFIC NORTHWEST BELL

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