

Keeping Lands on Tax Rolls One of Biggest Problems Facing Counties in Western States

Salem — (U.P.) — County officials of several western states said Friday that one of the biggest problems facing the counties is keeping their lands on the tax rolls and not having them acquired by the federal government.

The officials expressed their views at the annual meeting here of the Interstate Association of Public Land Counties, which originated in Oregon. They were introduced by Lester Coffey, Susanville, Calif., Lassen county supervisor and president of the association.

Jim Stearns of Modoc county, northern California, said some study should be given to the advisability of retaining such vast acreages as public lands. He said "public land is not a sacred cow. It might serve as well in private hands."

Favors Reclassification

Stearns said some land in California could be reclassified and if it is not serving "too well in public ownership, it might as well be put on the tax rolls."

He said land adjacent to corporate cities which is public land is restricting the expansion of those cities.

Fred Schneider of Colorado said: "Uncle Sam is continually taking lands from us." He said in some Colorado counties the federal government owns as much as 97 per cent of the land. Schneider said one of Colorado's big problems is getting the use it needs itself out of the rivers that originate in the state. These include the Colorado, the Rio Grande and the Platte. He said he thought the state should have some say in use of these waters and that Uncle Sam should not set himself up as the supreme authority in allocating water rights.

Spruce Beetle Problem

Glenn Reed of Bonner County, Idaho, said 67 per cent of the land in Idaho is federally owned. He said one of the problems facing the timbered areas of northern Idaho is infestation of the spruce beetle. He expressed hope that the federal government would co-operate adequately in financing the fight against the pest.

Frank Dougherty of Montana said that his state had made a

deal whereby it got some good land it might not have otherwise acquired in a deal involving 9000 acres of land which recently was put into Glacier National park-federal land. He said the federal government sent men in to buy this land which had adjoined the park. But Montana officials instead of selling, negotiated an exchange of lands of equal value. The land involved is dense forest. So the federal government finally exchanged 200,000 acres of less valuable land for the 9000.

Cecil B. Campbell of Nevada said the counties in the less populated areas of that state were striving to get lands back on the tax rolls to provide for the cost of governing themselves.

Lloyd Karrer of northern Cal-

ifornia said one of the efforts being made by county officials in that area is to get timber for land in exchange for acres acquired by the government in the so-called primitive area of that part of the state.

Forrest Cooper, counsel for the Association, told of work he said was being carried on to give the counties more control of their lands and to retain the control once they get it.

Klamath Problems

Judge U. E. Reed of Klamath Falls told of problems in his area.

The "guest speaker" for the day spoke in absentia. Congressman Harris Ellsworth, Roseburg Republican, was to have attended the meeting but had to keep an engagement elsewhere. He "addressed" the meeting by way

of a phonograph recording he made in Washington, D.C., reporting on developments concerning federally owned lands and Oregon and California grant lands.

Civil Defense To Continue as Part Of American Life

Salem — (U.P.) — Americans must continue to accept civil defense as part of their way of life as long as there are threats to world peace, Col. Arthur M. Sheets said during the first department head meeting since his appointment as state director of civil defense.

The new director said he is certain of two things—first, the Oregon civil defense agency has well-formulated plans, and, secondly, civil defense is a vital part of the national defense program.

Work Still Important

He said: "As a co-partner with the armed forces, our work in providing national security is just as important today as in 1952 or 1951. Civil defense is now operative, but the task that faces us will never be completed. Everything we can do during this period will help that much more in saving lives and restoring damaged facilities following a large scale disaster."

Reports Given

Chiefs of eight civil defense services gave reports, followed by a presentation of freedoms foundation awards to Russell H. Kaufman M.D., chief of physicians section of the Oregon Civil Defense emergency medical service, and O. R. Blair, director of Oregon civil defense transportation service. The George Washington honor medals and citations presented by Gov. Paul L. Patterson were based on outstanding work in preparing the country against possible enemy attacks. They have worked for civil defense on a voluntary basis for three years.



EN ROUTE TO JAPAN, Sgt. Paul E. Call, 30 and son, James, 7, stop in Seattle after Call won custody of lad from former wife, Mrs. Jeanne Call, 27, Huntington Park, Cal., who opposed his plan to have Japanese wife rear James. (International)

Smallest Whiskey Warehouse Dedicated

Frankfort, Ky. — (U.P.) — The smallest government-bonded whiskey warehouse in the nation was dedicated recently at a Frankfort distillery, to hold just one barrel of bonded bourbon whiskey.

This particular barrel happened to be the two millionth barrel of bourbon produced by the distillery since the repeal of prohibition 20 years ago. No other distillery has reached that mark.

The warehouse, built of Kentucky limestone, meets 30 pages of government specification for a bonded warehouse, and is radiant heated to keep the barrel at an even temperature the year around.

Each barrel of whiskey receives a government-stamped serial number before it is placed in a warehouse for aging, so there was no question about

THE INNOCENT BYSTANDER

Bloomington, Ill. — (U.P.) — Jimmy Lohmes, 4, was just standing there watching and wasn't even mad at the raccoon, but the raccoon got mad at Jimmy. It slipped away from older boys, who were chasing it with a bushel basket, and bit a chunk out of Jimmy's ankle. The animal was beaten off with a baseball bat. Jimmy needed four stitches.

whether or not this one was actually number 2,000,000.

Connecticut claims the distinction of having nine of the nation's comparatively few eight-sided houses. One of the octagonal shaped dwellings located at Bridgeport, once was the home of P. T. Barnum.

Hollywood — (U.P.) — Olivia de Havilland said she will marry Persian magazine executive Pierre Gallante soon after Aug. 27 when her divorce from novelist Marcus Goodrich becomes final.

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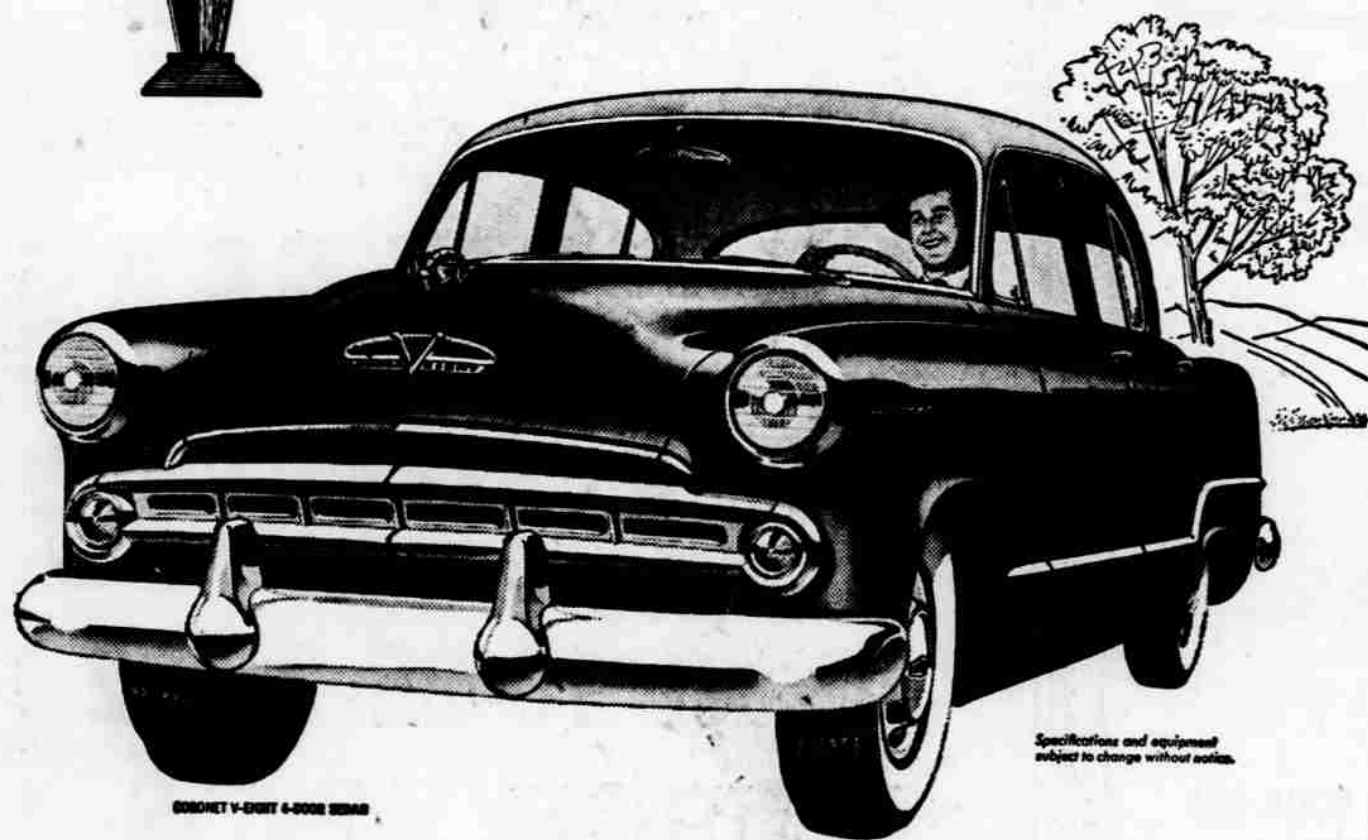
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