

Oregon Veterans Pay \$1,092,649 In Property Taxes

Salem —(U.P.)— Veterans with homes and farms financed by the Oregon veterans' home and farm loan program paid state property taxes on 10,285 pieces of property totaling \$1,092,649 for the year 1954-55, according to Director H. C. Salfeld of the State Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The veteran doesn't pay these taxes direct to the tax collector. He pays one-twelfth of them every month to the Department of Veterans' Affairs along with his monthly loan repayment. The department in turn pays the tax collector and does it in advance of the Nov. 15 deadline in order to give the veteran the advantage of a three per cent discount. The tax-savings for the 10,285 property holders this year amounted to \$33,793. The average tax paid by each veteran was \$106.

The department collects the veteran's taxes for two reasons, Salfeld said — to relieve him from the necessity of paying his own taxes in a lump sum, and to prevent tax delinquencies.

Largest tax payments went to Multnomah county, which received \$274,898 from 2,455 veterans' properties. Lane county was second with \$84,746 from 752 veterans, and Clackamas county third, with 723 veterans paying \$83,423.

Traffic Deaths Drop in October

Chicago — (U.P.) — Traffic deaths in October fell from 1953 levels for the 10th month in a row, the National Safety Council has reported.

But the October death toll of 3,590 was the largest for any month in 1954, and the two per cent decrease from October of 1953 was the smallest since January.

For 10 months, the council said, deaths totaled 29,350 persons, about six per cent fewer than the corresponding months of 1953.

The North Atlantic and North Central states were responsible for the continuing improvement over last year, it said.

Leading cities in each population group for the 10 months included:

Over 1,000,000 population: Los Angeles, first.
Population 750,000 to 1,000,000: San Francisco, second.
Population 500,000 to 750,000: Seattle, first.
Population 350,000 to 500,000: Portland, second.
Population 100,000 to 200,000: Berkeley, Calif., first.
Population 50,000 to 100,000: Richmond, Calif., third.
Population 25,000 to 50,000: Palo Alto, Calif., first.



1953 TALENT WINNER—Sharon Laing, above, was winner of last year's amateur talent contest sponsored by Jackson county chapter No. 8, Disabled American Veterans. She also will appear in this year's show, but since she was a winner last year, will not be in competition. Entries may still be made in the contest, and many have already been received, according to the sponsors. Contestants are limited to non-professionals under 18 years of age. There will be two classes, for those over and under 12 years of age. Tickets are now on sale. The contest will be at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, at the Medford High school auditorium. The four winning acts will be featured on television next Tuesday.

China Debate Topic Criticism Said Based On Fear of Speech

Chicago — (U.P.)—A collegiate group has refused to withdraw recognition of Red China as a debate topic for college students and has blasted criticism of the subject as "distrust of free speech."

The refusal was announced by the National Intercollegiate Committee on Debate and Discussion, an arm of the Speech Association of America.

Controversy Stirred
It was this committee which originally proposed the subject last May as chief topic for collegiate debate teams and stirred up a controversy in universities across the nation.

A number of institutions, including the U.S. Naval and Military academies, have banned the topic. Many scholastic and na-

tional leaders, including President Eisenhower, have said they see no harm in it.

The committee revealed that it held a meeting here Saturday and Sunday to consider the dispute and voted unanimously not to back down.

It also issued a sharp statement deploring the distrust "manifest in the disposition to forbid the testing of governmental policies in public inquiry and debate."

"The committee is convinced that distrust of free speech is distrust of democracy itself," the statement said.

Belief Said Confirmed
The committee, composed of six educators, said "reports already received from all parts of the country confirm the belief that the proposition is timely, vital and debatable."

A number of college presidents, notably in Nebraska, have protested that the topic, "resolved that the United States should extend diplomatic recognition to the Communist government of China," forces students to debate on the Communist side.

However, the committee said, its reports show that both affirmative and negative arguments on the topic have been "equally opposed to Communism."

Jackson School Fourth Graders Present Play

A Thanksgiving play entitled "Who's Thankful" was given recently by fourth graders of Jackson school for the student body. The play contrasted the conveniences of the Pilgrim Thanksgiving with those of today. The cast included Connie Hurn, Jacque Chestnut, Roma Sims, Judy Bass, Mary Barr, Judy Brookman, Christine Thornburg and Priscilla Cauthon. Donald Kent acted as the radio announcer and the staging and curtains were handled by Ronald Calkins.

The fourth grade chorus sang "Over the River and Through the Woods," "Giving Thanks," "Thanksgiving Day" and "Prayer for Peace."

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Farmers' Crop, Livestock Prices Up in November

Washington — (U.P.) — Prices farmers received for crops and livestock increased eight-tenths of one per cent during the month ended Nov. 15, according to the Agriculture Department.

The increase followed two consecutive months of decline. The department said the cost of things farmers must buy remained unchanged during the month.

Because the increase in farm prices was slight, the department said, farmers' returns in mid-November averaged the same as mid-October, 87 per cent of so-called "fair price" parity.

Theoretical Level
In mid-November last year farm prices averaged 90 per cent of parity.

Parity is a theoretical level, measuring farm prices against farm costs, which is supposed to give farmers the same purchasing power they had in the "normal" base period of 1910-1914.

The report said increases in prices of commercial vegetables, potatoes, eggs, milk, and wheat during the month ending in mid-November were partially offset by lower prices for cotton, oranges, and corn during the month.

Meat animal prices held "relatively steady" with a slight drop in cattle prices nearly offset by higher hog prices.

According to an old superstition, popular with husbands and wives of the Middle Ages, which ever brought the first Christmas holly into the house would rule the household for the ensuing year.

Fruit Containers, Heat from Waste, Due at Hort Meet

A display of cardboard containers for fruit, being used experimentally in the Rogue valley, will be featured at the annual meeting of the Oregon State Horticultural society Dec. 2 and 3 in Corvallis, according to David B. Lowry, Medford, state president.

The display will be handled by orchardists from the Medford area.

Another display slated for the state meeting will be a demonstration of the use of wood waste products being used to supplement, or do away with, orchard oil heaters.

Cooperation Asked
The Forest Products Laboratories, Corvallis, has asked for the cooperation of the Fruit Growers league and the Rogue River Valley Traffic association in research on use of wood waste products in orchard heating.

Robert W. Root, Medford, is chairman of the Fruit Growers league committee.

In addition to Lowry and Root, those from this area attending the convention will include Dunbar Carpenter, Medford; Orville C. Hamilton, Central Point; Ward B. Spatz, Medford; Martin Luther Jr., Medford; Robert K. Norris, Medford; Stephen G. Nye, Medford; Don Barry, Medford; and John Higgin, of the Southern Oregon Branch experiment station.

They are leaving today for Corvallis, and most of them plan to return Friday or Saturday.

COOKIE

Memphis, Tenn. — (U.P.) — Mrs. Perry E. Johnson had just about lost her patience with her 21-month-old son, Steven, who didn't want his dinner. "You know what I ought to give you," the mother said, thinking in terms of a spanking. "A cookie?" the little boy asked. Mrs. Johnson gave him a cookie.

In almost every pagan rite gifts are offered to placate the tempers of gods and spirits. Thus for years the Church frowned upon the exchange of gifts as pagan.

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WRONG SIDE OF TRACKS
Lourenco Marques, Mozambique — (U.P.) — Game authorities reported buffalo and antelope dying from thirst, afraid to cross the newly laid railway tracks to drink at the shores of the Limpopo river. The new tracks run from this Portuguese East African capital to Southern Rhodesia.

EARLY START
Bristol, Conn. — (U.P.) — Missing for two hours in a swampy woodland, Leo Goulet, 4, walked back home and explained, "I wasn't lost—I was just squirrel hunting."

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