

# City's Combined Millage Rate Decreases But Taxes Levied Up Some \$300,000

While the combined millage rate in the city of Medford has decreased slightly from last year the total tax levied has increased by more than \$300,000, according to figures supplied local officials this week.

The combined millage for the 1955-56 tax year is 67.4, compared to 68.2 for 1954-55. But the total of tax levies on city property this year is \$1,681,369, compared to \$1,342,673 last year.

These figures were compiled by the Bureau of Municipal Research and Service at the University of Oregon at the request of former Mayor Diamond L. Flynn, immediate past president of the League of Oregon Cities, and have been made available to city officials here.

**Flynn Requests Information**  
Flynn requested the information from Herman Kehrl, executive secretary of the bureau, because of the many complaints about high tax increases in Jackson county this year. Kehrl's analysis of taxes in this area indicated there are several reasons for the increases.

Excerpts from his analysis follow:  
"You will note that between 1954 and 1955 the total assessed value of Jackson county has been increased almost \$19,000,000 and that almost \$18,000,000 of this increase comes from real property. According to information published by the State Tax commission, there is a flat 40 per cent increase in the assessed value of all real property and there is also some increase in this category due to new improvements.

"... There was a 46.8 per cent increase in the assessed value of real property in Jackson county through 1954 and 1955, while the assessed value of personal property was increased only 1.1 per cent and the assessed value of utility property, which is assessed and apportioned by the State Tax commission, 11.7 per cent.

"As a result of the reassessment program, real property now constitutes 69 per cent of the total assessed value of the county as compared with 61.4 per cent last year; personal property constitutes 17.5 per cent of the total as compared with 22.7 per cent last year; and utility property now constitutes 14.2 per cent of the total as compared with 16.6 per cent last year.

**Shift in Liability**  
"As a result of the reassessment there has been quite a shift in tax liability from utility property and personal property to real property. This is undoubtedly one reason that the taxes of so many Medford property owners are higher this year than they were last year. ... While part of this shift is due to the reassessment program now under way in Jackson county, part of it is undoubtedly due to the addition of improvements not previously assessed and to changes in the assessment of individual properties in an attempt to get greater uniformity."

A table compiled by Kehrl shows that county tax levies on Medford property last year totaled \$116,117 and this year \$217,031, with a millage increase from 5.9 to 8.7. School levies on Medford property rose from \$777,832 to \$992,856, with a millage increase from 39.5 to 39.8. City levies went up from \$448,24 to \$471,482, with a de-

crease in the millage from 22.8 to 18.9.

Kehrl adds:  
"You will note that county taxes levied within the city are slightly over \$100,000 more than last year and that school taxes levied within the city have increased more than \$200,000 and city taxes more than \$20,000. Total property taxes levied have increased from \$1,342,673 last year to \$1,681,369 for this year. Despite an increase of over \$5,000,000 in the assessed valuation of property within

the city, from \$19,680,863 to \$24,946,133, the combined tax millage has remained almost the same: 67.4 mills this year as compared with 68.2 mills last year. If the assessed valuation of any particular piece of property is increased under the reassessment program, but the same millage is levied, then the taxes increase by the percentage of increase in assessed value.

**Statewide Trend**  
"... You will note that the statewide trend has also been to shift the burden from personal

property and utility property to locally assessed real property, although the statewide trend has not been as sharp as that which has occurred during the past year in Jackson county."

Giving figures for the county as a whole, Kehrl showed that the assessed value of real property has gone up an average of 46.8 per cent in the last year. The largest increase was on timber, which increased 178.2 per cent. Other increases were lands inside corporate limits, up 23 per cent; lands outside corporate limits, up 32.6 per cent; improvements in cities, up 44.6 per cent, and improvements outside cities, up 56.5 per cent. These classes of real property now total 69 per cent of the total value, compared to 61.4 per cent last year.

Personal property this year constituted 17.5 per cent of total assessed value, compared to 22.7 per cent last year, a decline of 1.1 per cent.

Real and personal property combined went from 84.1 per cent of the total value to 86.5 per cent, an increase of from \$51,926,870 to \$69,833,658, or an increase of 34.5 per cent.

Valuation of utility properties, assessed by the state tax commission, increased 11.7 per cent, from \$10,275,545 to \$11,476,460. They now represent 14.2 per cent of the total, compared to 16.6 per cent last year. The total assessed valuation rose from \$61,750,895 to \$80,321,48, an overall increase of 30.7 per cent.

## Tongay Prepares To Fight Extradition

Los Angeles—(U.P.)—Escaped convict Russell Tongay prepared today to fight extradition "to the limit" on a claim he is dying of cancer and will not get necessary treatment if he returns to Florida.

The 38-year-old fugitive said if California authorities return him to Florida before he gets treatment for a lung ailment, which he says is cancer, "it will be the same as a death sentence." "I'm desperate," Tongay said at the General hospital prison ward yesterday. "They gave me the run-around in Florida and wouldn't treat my condition. A doctor told me my lung trouble was caused by cancer, but they wouldn't help me."

The husky former swimming instructor was sentenced to 1 to 10 years in prison for manslaughter in the death of his four-year-old "Aquatot" daughter, Kathy, who died of injuries after a 33-foot exhibition dive.

**QUAKE RECORDED**  
Weston, Mass.—(U.P.)—A "strong" earthquake, perhaps in Siberia, was recorded on the Weston College seismograph today.

San Francisco—(U.P.)—Stockholders of Crown Zellerbach Corporation of San Francisco and Gaylord Container Corporation of St. Louis approved a merger of the two companies at special meetings yesterday.

## Plywood Workers Accept Wage Offer

Portland—(U.P.)—An industry wage increase offer of an average 8.75 cents an hour has been accepted by representatives of some 6000 CIO plywood workers in the Pacific Northwest.

Acceptance of the offer, subject to approval by the union membership, was announced here yesterday by Burk Christie, president of the plywood district council of the International Woodworkers of America.

The wage increase offer has been turned down by other segments of the IWA. But it was accepted earlier by AFL lumber and Sawmill Workers.

The pay increases range from 5 to 15 cents an hour with the average at 8.75.

Spokane—(U.P.)—The meeting of the Columbia Interstate Compact commission scheduled for Portland Dec. 12 has been cancelled.

## Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

Los Angeles—Russell Tongay, recaptured after escaping from Florida's Raiford prison where he was serving a manslaughter conviction for the death of his four-year-old "aquatot" daughter: "They gave me the run-around in Florida and wouldn't treat my condition. A doctor told me my lung trouble was caused by cancer, but they wouldn't help me."

Montreal—Mrs. Marie Girouard, older sister of Marie Dionne in confirming that Marie has left the convent for good: "She has been told by her doctor that the cloistered life of a nun was too hard for her frail health."

Chicago—"Queen" Maggie O'Connor, reminded by police that some of her accomplices in some 100 robberies had "squealed on her": "Everybody beefed on me but I ain't gonna beef on nobody."

Chandigarh, India—Communist party boss Nikita Khrushchev on the offer of American construction engineer Harvey Slocum to change jobs: "You will have to lift the iron wall and let me in."

London—British Prime Minister Anthony Eden, announcing that Russia has rejected a British approach to limiting arms deliveries to the Middle East: "The Soviet leaders give us very little encouragement that any useful purpose would be served by inviting the Soviet Union to a conference of the nature suggested."

New York—Steve Carlin, executive producer of the television program "The \$64,000 Question," on the possibility that three contestants now appearing could win an aggregate of \$112,000: "We can afford it."

Annapolis, Md.—Coach Eddie Erdelatz of Navy, forecasting a cautious start by both teams in this Saturday's Army-Navy football classic: "I expect we'll feel each other out like a couple of boxers, and whichever way we can gain best will be the way we'll try."

## Cold Air Drifts Into Southern States

By UNITED PRESS  
Cold air drifted southward across the mid-continent today, pushing temperatures down an average of 10 to 20 degrees or more, and breaking a record November heat wave in Southwestern states.

The cold front set off tornado alerts in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas, but the alarms apparently were false. No twisters were reported.

Fort Worth, Tex., registered a summerlike 89 degrees yesterday, a record high for November, and Houston recorded 85, Dallas 87, and Oklahoma City a balmy 75. But the cold front was expected to send the mercury tumbling as much as 30 degrees.

Temperatures already had dropped 10 to 20 degrees or more to the north. Glasgow, Mont., which registered 24 yesterday, shivered in four below zero temperatures, and at Rapid City, S.D., the mercury fell 22 degrees to 17 above.

**AUTHOR UNDER KNIFE**  
Los Angeles—(U.P.)—Gene Fowler, film writer, former newspaper editor and author of numerous books, was reported in "good condition" at St. Vincent's hospital today after undergoing major surgery.

## License Effective For Beaver Marsh Job

Washington—(U.P.)—A Federal Power Commission's decision issuing a 50-year license to the city of Eugene, Ore., for construction of its proposed Beaver Marsh hydroelectric project on the McKenzie river has become effective.

The decision by Examiner Francis L. Hall was issued Oct. 20. Since no exceptions were filed or review initiated by the commission, the decision became effective Monday, the FPC said.

## Open Hearing Seen For Cain Charges

Washington—(U.P.)—The Subversive Activities Control Board will take no action in a bias and prejudice case against board member Harry P. Cain until the matter is aired in open hearings here, informed sources said today.

But they said a case which Cain is hearing in Seattle will be recessed until the matter is resolved. Cain has been presiding since Oct. 8 at oral arguments in a case brought by Attorney General Herbert Brownell Jr. against the Washington Pension Union.

Brownell asked the SACB late yesterday to reconsider charges of bias and prejudice filed against Cain by the union last February.

## White Thanksgiving Possible in Portland

Portland—(U.P.)—Portland may get a white Thanksgiving. The weather man today predicted snow showers tonight and Thursday, mixed with rain. With temperatures as low as 31 forecast for Portland tonight there was a chance of snow sticking to the ground.

Elsewhere the forecasts called for scattered snow flurries in eastern Oregon and rain showers in most of western Oregon. Snow fell this morning in the Columbia gorge and two inches was reported between Cascade Locks and Biggs Junction. Five inches was reported at Burns in eastern Oregon.

## Court Records

**POLICE COURT**  
Clement Matthew Lizberg, illegal left turn, \$5.  
Anna Belle Skeeters, illegal right turn, \$5.

**DISTRICT COURT**  
Herbert Roswell Lamson, failure to stop at a stop sign, \$10; violation of basic rule, \$15.

Frank C. Dollarhide, failure to stop at the scene of an accident, \$5.  
Reinhold Boes, following too close in traffic, \$15.

Nathan Deaver, truck speeding, \$10.  
Gerald Clyde Stewart, violation of basic rule, \$17.50.

Roy Thomas Johnson, failure to stop at a stop sign, \$10.  
Lionel George Rankin, truck speeding, \$10.

**CIRCUIT COURT**  
Donald E. Warner vs. Alma Warner, divorce decree.

Margery Smith vs. Richard D. Smith, divorce decree.  
Gertrude L. Myers vs. Robert Walter Myers, divorce decree.

Glady Ruth Sheldon vs. Kenneth Alvin Sheldon, divorce complaint.

**MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS**  
Roland Keith Johnson, 25, route 1, box 265, Central Point, and Lorraine Louise Neuman, 18, of 314 North Central ave.

Dead line Sunday. Classified is at noon Saturday; 1 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

Wednesday, November 23, 1955

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—FIVE

## 18 Communicable Illnesses Listed

Eighteen cases of communicable diseases, 10 of them in Medford, were reported to the county health office during the week ended Nov. 19.

Topping the county disease list was chicken pox, with two cases in Medford and one each in Prospect, Rogue River, Applegate, and Ashland. There were three cases of strep throat, including one in Medford and two in Ashland, and three cases of influenza in Medford.

Also on the list were two cases of mumps in Medford, two cases of measles in Medford, one case of pneumonia in Talent, and one case of tuberculosis in Ashland.

## Columbia River Development Urged

Portland—(U.P.)—The Inland Empire Waterways Association, concluding its annual convention here, yesterday urged spending \$112,000,000 a year for fiscal 1957 through 1962 for development of Columbia river area power resources.

The recommendations included completing McNary, Chief Joseph and The Dalles dams by 1957, 1959 and 1961, respectively, and keeping on schedule Lee Harbor, John Day, Hills Creek, Cougar and Green Peter dams.

Included in the revised program adopted by the group was Lower Monumental dam, second of four lower Snake river projects. Funds for this project will not be sought until fiscal 1958.

WILL YOU - KA-CHO-O - MARRY - KA-CHO-OO

GO OVER TO

**WAINSCOTT PHARMACY**

AND GET SOMETHING FOR THAT COLD - THEN START YOUR STORY AGAIN!

Vacagen Tablets, 20's... \$1.35  
Coricidin Tabs, 12's... 67c  
Boyle's Therapist, 16's... 89c

Prescriptions by

**HAROLD WAINSCOTT PHARMACY**

OVER 20 YEARS OF REPUTABLE SERVICE

S.W. CORNER EAST MAIN & RIVERSIDE AVE. Phone 2-6440 MEDFORD

# YOU Could Win a FREE FORD Dec. 21

## Only 28 More Days To Get FREE Tickets

WHY DON'T YOU TRY?  
No Need to Buy to Get Free Tickets

### See Big Display of Gifts—FREE With 1¢ FORTUNE STAMPS

IT'S FUN TO BUY GAS AT **FORTUNE**

"On the Point" So. Central & So. Riverside

FREE FORD TICKETS FROM SOUTHERN OREGON FORTUNE STATIONS, CENTRAL MARKET, CRATER LAKE MOTORS, AND BELL MOTORS, GRANTS PASS.

Thanksgiving Day

AH! TURKEY MEAT! THE DARK OR WHITE! ENJOY THE FEAST WITH EVERY BITE! AND WHEN YOU SHOP, OH, DO IT RIGHT!

IT PAYS TO SHOP AT **S-W FLOOR COVERINGS**

**BETTER** the extra ply is the reason why!

3 Ply Wool Pile TWIST **CARPET**

**\$10<sup>95</sup>** Sq. Yd.

FREE ESTIMATES!

**S-W FLOOR COVERINGS** OVER 20 YEARS OF FLOORING SERVICE Phone 2-7376 709 So. RIVERSIDE AVE. MEDFORD

**Montgomery Ward**

117 S. CENTRAL PHONE 2-6241

# TONIGHT 5 to 9 Specials!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SPECIAL

Reg. 1.98 **WOMEN'S FLANNEL GOWNS** SPECIAL PRICE **1.66** TONIGHT ONLY

MEDIUM-WEIGHT COTTON FLANNELLETTE. PASTEL COLORS. CUT LONG AND FULL FOR COMFORT. SIZES: 34 TO 46. LINGERIE DEPT. — MAIN FLOOR

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SPECIAL

Reg. 9.98 **CHILDREN'S SNOW SUITS** SPECIAL PRICE **6.99** TONIGHT ONLY

1 AND 2-PC. SETS IN WATER REPELLENT NYLON OR GABARDINE. WASHABLE. CAP, OR HOOD INCLUDED. ALL WOOL LININGS. PASTEL OR DARK COLORS. SIZES 1-6X. CHILDREN'S DEPT. — MAIN FLOOR

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SPECIAL

Reg. 7.98 **MEN'S JACKETS** SPECIAL PRICE **5.99** TONIGHT ONLY

TANKER MODEL IN SHEEN GABARDINE, QUILTED LINING. COLORFUL HIGH SHADES, ALSO WHITE, CHARCOAL. SIZES 38 TO 42. MEN'S DEPT. — MAIN FLOOR

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SPECIAL

Reg. 2.89 **CLOTHES DRYER** SPECIAL PRICE **2.22** TONIGHT ONLY

COMPACT, FOLDING WOOD DRYER. PROVIDES 34 FT. DRYING SPACE. LOCKS FIRMLY IN OPEN POSITION. HEIGHT ABOUT 40-IN. 24 ONLY. HOUSEWARES — BASEMENT

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SPECIAL

Reg. 2.19 **ROTO DISPENSER** SPECIAL PRICE **1.66** TONIGHT ONLY

TWELVE 4-OZ. JARS—MOUNT ON WALL OR SHELF. IDEAL FOR WORKSHOP, GARAGE. BUY FOR A GIFT. HARDWARE DEPT. — BASEMENT