

Husband or Wife Allowed to File Joint or Separate Income Tax Return

Editor's note: Following is the second of five dispatches giving detailed explanations about filling out and filing the 1958 income tax forms. The series was written especially for United Press by Russell C. Harrington, commissioner of internal revenue.

By RUSSELL C. HARRINGTON
Commissioner of Internal Revenue

Written for United Press
Washington — Being married may save you money on your income tax.

The government allows you and your wife or husband to file a joint return instead of two separate returns. Very often you pay less tax this way—but not always. The only sure way to tell which method costs less is to figure the tax both ways.

Even if you filed separately last year you may file jointly for your 1957 income. It's up to you.

Whether you file jointly or separately you use the same forms. Generally, if a couple's combined income was less than \$5,000 either Form 1040 or the short card Form 1040A may be used. If the income to be reported was \$5,000 or more, Form 1040 is required.

Forbidden in Some Cases
In some situations joint filing is forbidden. These cases are relatively infrequent but should be remembered. They are: if you were divorced or legally separated on or before Dec. 31, 1957; if you are married to a non-citizen who does not live in this country; if

you and your wife report your income on the basis of different tax years (for example, you report your income for a 12-month period ending June 30 and your wife uses the regular calendar year). Even if your wife had no income at all, you may file a

INCOME TAX TIPS

Washington — Taxpayers often get a bill for additional taxes because of:

Failure to report all compensation for services, especially where no tax was withheld. Common examples are tips, money for odd jobs.

Omission from the return of such taxable income as interest on bank accounts, stock dividends, rents, profit on property sales.

Claiming exemptions for persons who don't qualify as dependents.

Taking deductions not legally deductible, such as federal excise taxes, educational expenses, gifts to needy friends and relatives, cost of traveling to and from work.

Claiming excessive deductions for interest paid, taxes, contributions and medical expenses.

Both Must Sign
When husband and wife file a joint return, both must sign the return and both become liable for any amount of tax owed.

Joint Return
In filing a joint return you add both the husband's and the wife's income (if any) and list the exemptions and deductions (standard or itemized) to which both are entitled. Special tax rates are provided for calculating the tax you owe, if you file jointly. The rates are figured as if your joint income were split in half and you each paid the tax on one half.

Keep in mind however that if you file separate returns and one of you itemizes his or her deductions the other must also itemize them.

Whether filing jointly or separately if you compute your tax and find you still owe something you must send in with the return a check or money order for the full amount due.

When you file jointly you attach both the husband's and the wife's Forms W-2 to the joint return. If you send in separate returns attach the right form to the right return.

One tax item which affects couples more often than it affects individuals is buying or selling a house.

Pay Tax on Profit
As a general rule, if you sell your home or any other personal property, such as stocks or bonds, you must pay a tax on the profit you make.

There is an exception which applies in certain cases where you sell your residence.

If you sold your home during 1957 for a higher price than you paid in buying it and making permanent improvements on it you need not pay tax on the profit if you buy another home within 12 months and pay as much or more for the new one as you got for the one you sold.

If you sold your home and built a new one—instead of buying an existing house—you have 18 months instead of 12. That is, you must move in within 18 months.

If you buy or build a new house for less than you sold the old one, you must pay tax on part, or all, of the profit from selling the old one. If you owned the old house for more than six months, the tax may be at lower rates.

Report all of this in detail on a separate tax form, called Schedule D, and summarize it on page 3 of Form 1040.

Later I will discuss deducting interest payments on the mortgage on your house.

Resolution Passed Favoring Hospital

A resolution favoring installation of a veterans hospital at Camp White was passed during the business session of District 5, Disabled American Veterans here Sunday.

The district includes DAV chapters from Klamath Falls, Grants Pass, Roseburg, and Oakland, Ore.

Department Commander William Manley, Eugene, was reported to agree that a hospital should be installed at Camp White. This concurs with the opinions expressed by department commanders of other major veterans organizations of the state as well as the Oregon state Grange.

The district also approved the resolution originated by the Medford DAV chapter opposing installation of paid TV.

This would interfere with free viewing privileges of hospitalized veterans or other unable to pay for worthwhile programs, the resolution stated. June 11 through June 14 were set as the dates for the state convention scheduled for Medford. The next meeting of District 5 will be held in Grants Pass during May.

Local Salesman Receives Award

Philadelphia, Pa.—Sam T. Richardson, Home Appliance company, Medford, won an award in the Major appliance division under the Creative Retail Salesman of the Year contest for 1957 in the Appliance - Radio - TV industry contest.

Richardson was presented \$125 and a bronze plaque for submitting the best selling idea in his division. The award was presented at the National Appliance Retailer Dealers association convention banquet on Jan. 13.

The grand prize of the \$500 and a silver plaque went to Tom Sanders of Innes, Wichita, Kans. for submitting the best selling idea of the year.

Jackson County Visitors View Library Bookmobile

Jackson County visitors to "B-58," the first bookmobile for Oregon to be purchased with state and federal funds, during its Medford and Ashland exhibits Friday and Saturday were very much interested in the potentialities of traveling library service, according to Miss Rose Davidson, bookmobile librarian.

Miss Davidson observed that many city residents living near a public library remarked wistfully how much they would have enjoyed bookmobile service when they lived out of reach of city libraries. They were glad to know that rural readers could have books brought nearer their homes.

The exhibit bookmobile is one of the smallest units now in use, it was explained. It has a capacity of only 1800 volumes.

Some bookmobiles have shelves for as many as 3000 volumes and working space for a staff of three—a driver, a clerk, and a librarian. The books with which the "B-58" is stocked are for exhibit only but will later be awarded to an Oregon library by the state library board.

Following its Jackson County showing the mobile library will tour a number of routes in Josephine County Feb. 17 to 20. Donald Bunsie, driver, and Miss Davidson will then return the vehicle to the Oregon State library, which has arranged the exhibit tour with the hope of demonstrating to rural residents of the state the advantages of traveling library service. Upon completion of its tour the "B-58" will be awarded on a loan basis to Astoria for inauguration of a bookmobile service project.

Mon Desir Inn Selected For Tribe of Will Feast

Ashland — Julie Tummers, proprietor of the Mon Desir dining inn in Central Point has been selected by the Oregon Shakespearean festival board of directors to provide the Elizabethan repast for the 1958 "Feasting of the Tribe of Will," according to Manager Bill Patton.

The traditional opening night banquet, is annually staged in Ashland's Lithia park prior to the season's premiere performance. This year's fete is slated for the evening of July 28 in line with the theatre's newly expanded season. The four-play schedule opens that night with "Much Ado About Nothing." Following will be "King Lear," "The Merchant of Venice," and "Troilus and Cressida." This group of plays will rotate through Sept. 4.

Mrs. Tummers said the menu will be in the Mon Desir manner and will include hot roasted meats, salads of garden greens, fresh breads, and the rare herbs and spices that characterize the event.

Special dignitaries and guests, representatives from press, radio and television and the playing public will be invited. Brightly costumed madrigal singers will perform. Other entertainers now scheduled include the festival dancers and the popular Ashland Kilty band.

Tickets for the banquet may be ordered at any time with the deadline set for July 15 for mail orders. General manager William Patton urged all reservations be made as early as possible.

4-H CLUB NEWS

Thimble Thumbs Sewing Club
The Thimble Thumbs sewing club meeting was held at Judy Scott's house. Mary Anne Carnegie led the pledge to the flag and Michelle Ely led the 4-H pledge. Ann Parson was a guest. Mary Ann and Linda Metz gave demonstrations on how to stitch a corner of material on the sewing machine. We practiced threading and using the machine. The next meeting will be held at the home of Michelle on March 1.

Martha Merriman, Reporter

Chowder Chix Cooking Club
The third meeting of the Chowder Chix cooking club was held Saturday, Feb. 8, at the home of Joan Dobrot, Central Point. Members filled out their enrollment cards and discussed plans for a cake sale. The cake sale is being held in Faber's Market on Saturday, Feb. 22, at 10 a.m. The next meeting will be held on March 8 at Joan's home.

Nancy Inman, Reporter

Free Election Scheduled For All Argentinians

Buenos Aires — More than 10 million Argentinian men and women go to the polls a week from Sunday to vote in this country's first really free election in 30 years.

The only notable restriction affecting this year's voting is the ban on the Peronist Party formed by ex-President Juan D. Peron—and its 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 members

Chrome Tonnage Listing Ready

Information as to tonnage which remains to be purchased under the Domestic Chrome program will be made available on a weekly basis, it was announced by R. E. Reno Jr., regional director of the Defense Materials service.

This will be done so shippers in this program may be fully aware of the pending termination of both the Grants Pass and the carload program, he explained.

Beginning immediately a phone call to the Grants Pass depot (Greenwood 6-5098) or to San Francisco, Calif., (YUkon 6-3500, Ext. 453 or 452) will be given latest information.

This report will be available Tuesday afternoon and will include shipments received as of the close of business the previous Friday.

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Changes Slated For Photo Contest

Important changes in the Kodak high school photo contest more than double the cash prizes offered students, according to Brainerd's Studio and Camera shop.

The local store has provided entry blanks and give information to the local high school.

New rules call for elimination of competition between grades and will mean more entrants, it was explained.

National cash prizes ranging up to \$300 will be awarded in the four classes of entry for each of the four high school grades plus \$10 in cash prizes for runners-up, company officials said.

Medford Student Gets Scholarship

Cambridge, Mass.—William Howard Frake, 22 Richmond st., Medford, and freshman at Harvard university, has been named as one of the 14 undergraduates at the university awarded scholarship this year, according to the university news office.

Frake received annual scholarship donated in the memory of Richmond Talbot, class of 1835.

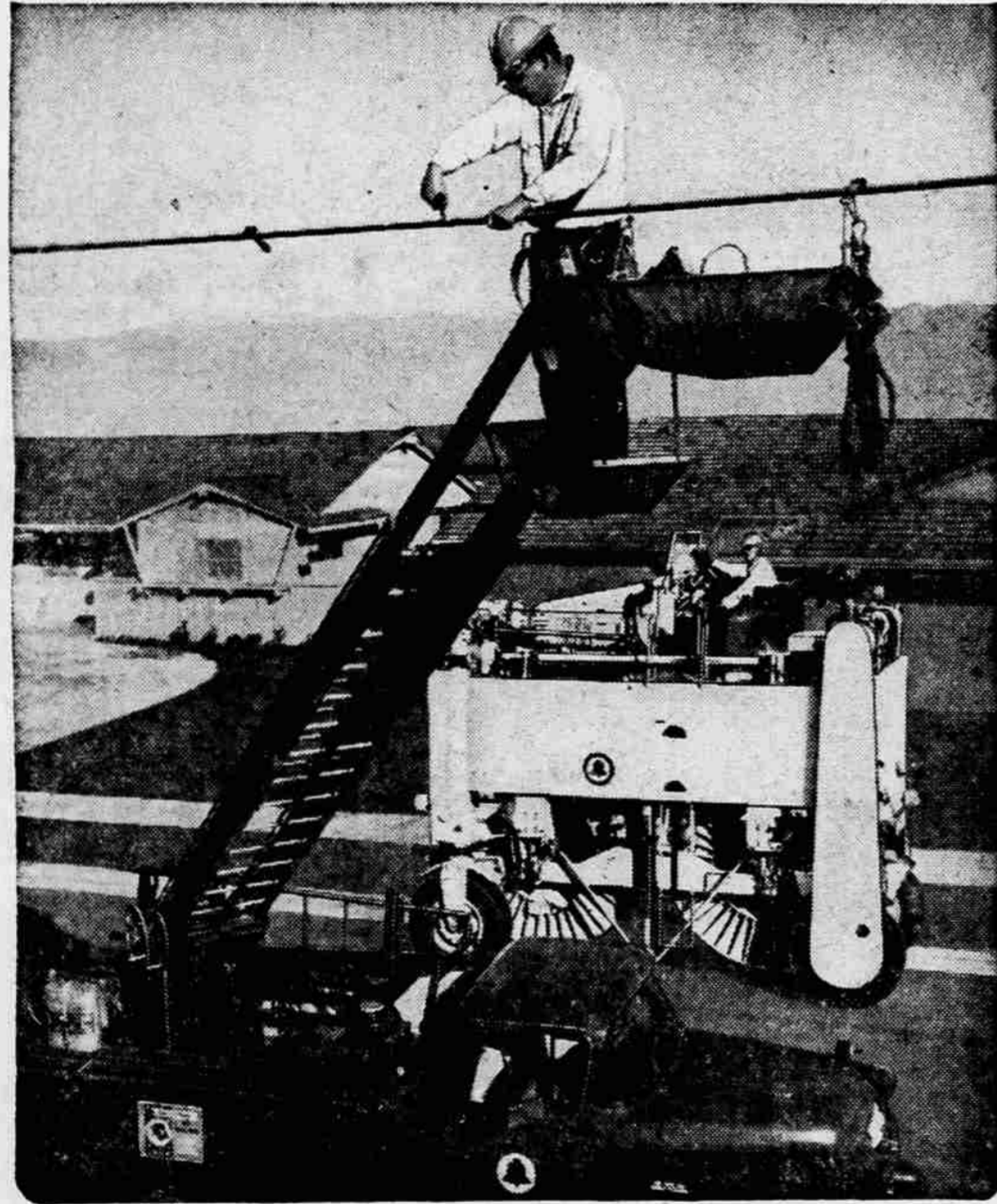
Harvard's most prized award, the competitive National scholarship, was given to three upperclassmen. All scholarships other than the National scholarships are Harvard college scholarships.

Many Oregon undergraduates also receive aid in meeting educational costs through long-term loans and part-time employment at the university.

Exams Announced By Civil Service

Examinations have been announced by the U. S. Civil Service commission for agricultural marketing specialist, fishery marketing specialist, and agricultural market reporter. The positions will be filled in the department of agriculture, U. S. fish and wildlife service and other federal agencies throughout the country.

For information contact Chester W. Silliman at the post office building in Medford.



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