



BIRTHDAY CAKE CARVED—The Duckworth twins, Sarah, left, and Mattie, right, cut their 95th birthday cake at Ventura, Calif., as younger sister Jeanette, who is only 92, looks on. The twins celebrated their birthday with a family reunion that included sons, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and sister Jeanette Gowdy. The twins were born on a farm at Mount Vernon, Ind. (UPI Telephoto)

Signal Light Costs Would Be Divided

Salem — UPB — Railroads and political subdivisions would share the costs of putting up signal lights and safety devices at dangerous crossings, under a bill that passed the Oregon House Wednesday. There was virtually no opposition to the measure, which now goes to the Senate.

Welfare Program in County Reviewed for Chamber Group

The Jackson county public welfare program has a total annual budget of \$1 1/2 million, County Judge Earl Miller told the Medford Chamber of Commerce committee on governmental operations yesterday.

Of that total, the county will pay approximately \$246,000 during the current fiscal year, the state will contribute approximately \$375,000, and the federal government the remainder.

Judge Miller cautioned against the county welfare commission becoming involved in the current arguments between the governor and the state welfare commission.

He does not think this should affect the local program. The welfare program here, as a whole, is operating quite properly and without complications, he noted.

Working Out Well
The new welfare work program is working out well, the county judge reported. One man has been on it since November, he noted.

Miller said he did not think the president's food plan is needed in Jackson county. This program would involve problems of administration which the county would have to investigate, he said.

Main areas which require improvement in the county welfare program involve aid to dependent children and care for illegitimate children. More restrictions should be

imposed to make the fathers responsible in both cases, Miller suggested.

Medical Care Problem

Another big problem is medical care for welfare patients, Miller pointed out. Since costs of medical care have risen sharply welfare allocations are not sufficient to meet demands, he said.

Besides the \$246,000 which the county will contribute to the welfare program this year, it also maintains an indigent relief fund to help those people who do not qualify for welfare and to aid the hospitals with their poor non-paying patients.

The local welfare department has a staff of 12 public assistance workers, three child welfare workers, and 10 clerks besides a supervisor, administrator and medical consultant.

Old Age Assistance Cases

Jackson county has approximately 720 old age assistance cases currently. 200 aid to disabled cases; 190 aid to dependent children cases. About half of the latter are due to death or incapacity of father and the remaining one-half to desertion or divorce.

The local department accumulates about 170 general assistance cases in midwinter and less than 20 per month in summer. The approximately 130 patients in nursing homes and homes for aged are paid for according to the amount of care received. Approx-

mately 70 children are in local foster homes, Miller told the committee.

The work program started in October with an average of five men and the county now has an average of 14 men, Judge Miller reported. The turnover of men is high since most of them find private employment. A few refuse to work.

General assistance to needy families with employable fathers costs a total of \$30,000 in 1959-60 and the cost for 1960-61 is estimated at \$60,000. The commission spends approximately \$26,000 a month for medical care, the county judge said.

Welfare Payment Money Recovered

Salem — UPB — The Oregon Justice Department's welfare recovery division collected \$27,912 in fraud and child support payments in January. The collections were made in 10 counties — Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Marion, Linn, Benton, Polk, Yamhill, Tillamook and Lincoln.

OIL LEASE BILLS

Salem — UPB — The State Land Board would be empowered to grant leases for oil exploration and development on Oregon's 600,000 acre offshore lands, under three bills introduced today in the House.

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