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Farm Bureau Furrow

By Scott Lamb
To anyone who wonders why many farmers are opposed to increasing social security taxes to pay for medical care, one of the answers can be found in the boost in the tax rate for self-employed persons.

Under the proposed legislation, the farmer would pay \$301.60 in 1965, and \$379.60 in 1968 and afterward, compared with the \$259.20 he pays now. The 1968 payment is based on a rate of 7.3 per cent on a maximum earnings base of \$6200, compared with the current \$5800 base.

So some farmers would be paying more social security taxes than federal income taxes. This would be an additional burden on a group already saddled with an ever-increasing property tax. A look at the property tax bill many farmers pay over and above production expenses of planting and harvesting a crop makes it look as if they are working mostly for the tax collector.

Unknown to many, the social security tax rate for the self-employed has risen six times since 1953, and when it rises to 6.9 per cent in 1968 (if Medicare does not pass), the rate will have increased 207 per cent. The increase to 7.3 per cent if the bill passes would mean an additional 17 per cent rise.

Nothing but public opinion can stop the rate from being increased either before or after 1968, but public opinion has not proved much of a safeguard up till now. The Social Security Act of 1935 has been amended 65 times and one Congress passed 17 of these amendments.

Farmers and other self-employed persons are asked to pay their social security taxes in a lump sum at the end of the year, while employees have their taxes deducted from their paychecks, the latter a fairly painless method. A farmer netting \$5,000 income is often hard pressed to pay \$260-\$300 under the current rate, let alone \$379.60 five years hence.

Aside from the cost, the proposed Medicare offers little in return to those who would pay into it for several years. Private insurance groups can do a better job of providing health insurance for the aged, and those who cannot afford needed medical care have benefitted greatly from the Kerr-Mills Law of 1960.

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Claudia Budlong Named Queen

Claudia Budlong was crowned Queen of the annual Sweetheart's Ball held at the high school gym Saturday evening. Her escort was Joe Cogar. She is a junior and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Budlong.

Her court was Frances Reid, senior; Laura Jo Rambo, sophomore and Corel Hampton, freshman. Master of ceremonies was Jim Haley of radio station KBZY Salem. There was a better attendance at the dance than in previous years.

Coming Events

Wednesday, Feb. 19
North Santiam Chamber of Commerce meeting at Gates Woman's clubhouse. "White-water Challenge" will be discussed.

Saniam Rebekah lodge at hall 8 P. M.
Junior Chamber of Commerce at hall at 8 P. M.

Friday, Feb. 21
IOOF lodge at hall at 8 P. M.

Monday, Feb. 24
Lions club dinner meeting at Fellowship hall 6-30. Annual Sweetheart dinner.

Tuesday, Feb. 25
North Santiam Council meeting at Last Frontier. Ladies night.

Marilyn Club covered dish dinner at home of Mrs. Charles Kelly, 12 noon.

Wednesday, Feb. 26
Order of Rainbow for girls at hall 7:30 P. M.

Thursday, Feb. 27
Lions Auxiliary at Alta Mofatt home 8 P. M.



OBITUARIES

MABEL JOHNSON
Mrs. Mabel Johnson, 80, of 1565 Tierra Drive, died Wednesday in Salem following a long illness.

A native of Iowa, she came to Mill City from Colorado in 1921, and moved to Salem in 1929. She and her late husband Charles, operated a grocery store on Silverton road NE for many years. She was a member of Mill City Christian church.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Myrtle Rowland, Salem; a brother, John H. Wilkinson, of Turner; two sisters, Zoma Baldwin of Stayton and Ruth Decker of Pocatello, Ida; and four grandchildren.

Services will be at 1:30 p. m. Saturday at the Barriek mortuary, Rev. Myron Hall officiating. Interment will be private.



FROM OUR FILES

Five Years Ago

The Mill City Camp Fire Girls had the honor of being the first organized group to present Santiam high school with a shrub—a Japanese silk tree. They were pictured on the front page of The Enterprise.

The royal court at the Santiam High School Sweetheart's ball was Phyllis Bickett as queen and Rodney Schaefer as king. Other princesses were Yvonne Dart, Virginia Urban and Carol Pate.

Jim Putnam, principal at Santiam High school was spearheading the Santiam Canyon Frolic which promised to be a gay affair.

Virginia Richards and Sandra Jackson were initiated into the Order of Rainbow for Girls at a meeting that week.

Linda Duffy had been honored on her 12th birthday anniversary with a party at the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Duffy.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Pakula had just returned from Michigan where they had been called by a death in the family.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hill and young son had just returned from a two week's trip to Hawaii.

Miss Sandra Olson had entertained with a Coke party at her home preceding the annual Sweetheart's ball.

Ten Years Ago

Members active in the Toastmistress club then were Edna Ross, Gwen Jones, Harriet LeCours, Edna Hutcheson, Faustina Nesbitt, Dolores Stewart and Elaine Kiersey.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Blegen, who were then located at Lowell were visiting at the Jay Mason home.

Rosalie Bassett was playing a clarinet solo that week at a Salem school. Accompanying her on the trip was her mother, Mrs. Lee Bassett.

Guests at the Bill Shuey home that week were Mr. and Mrs. Que Haines of Portland and Mrs. William North and son of Springfield.

At Gates Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bowes, a recently married couple were honored with a reception at the Gates Women's clubhouse.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Fleetwood had visited that week in Gresham at the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Beisell.

Taking a full page ad in The Enterprise was Don Lloyd of the Idanha Super service station announcing a wholesale price on tires.

Prices at Hilltop Market that week featured short ribs, 23c per pound; canned pineapple 4 cans \$1, lettuce 12c a pound, pork steak 59c lb.

Fifteen Years Ago

Mill City had been without power for a 20-hour stretch with business and industry all but paralyzed.

More than 350 people had attended the amateur show at the Mill City Theatre. Bob Fish of Salem was master of ceremonies and Mrs. Donald Sheytle was the accompanist for the musical numbers.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Millsap had attended a birthday dinner in Mill City honoring Wilbur Meinert on his birthday anniversary.

The flu bug seemed to be striking everywhere—then as now and with the weather bad outside no one wanted to get out anyway.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Girod and sons were living in Idanha then and were just back from a two week's vacation trip to California.

Gene Armstrong, Southern Pacific agent, who had gone back to Wyoming for his family had been snowbound in that area for 10 days.

Hit records at Porter & Lau that week were "Baby, Won't You Please Come Home," featuring Jo Stafford; "September Song," Harry James and "My Old Flame" with Spike Jones.

At Fleetwood's Grocery link sausage was selling at 49c a pound; cabbage 7c a pound, apples 7c a pound and rib steak 54c a pound.

Goodwill Industries will send their truck to Stayton Wednesday, February 26, to collect items of clothing, furniture, appliances and other household goods. Those who wish to contribute their repairable discards are asked to call Mrs. R. G. Wood at 769-5365. She will arrange for the truck to pick up your donations. There is an acute shortage of furniture at Goodwill now. Donations of all types of furniture will be appreciated.

Outdoor Recreation Interest Growing

Recreation visits to the Willamette National Forest during 1963 totaled an estimated 14 million visits, according to figures released by the Forest Service.

Forest Supervisor David R. Gibney said the figure is the largest on record and represents "the increase interest of people in outdoor recreation." Last year, an estimated 1,086,550 persons visited the forest for recreation. The forest this year was second only to the Mt. Hood National Forest in the Oregon-Washington region. Nearly three million visits were recorded to the Mt. Hood.

General enjoyment and sight-seeing which includes automobile travel topped the list with 403,800 visits. Next was fishing with 221,600 visits and camping and picnicking with 181,300 and 135,000 respectively. Other visits and camping and picnicking for swimming, winter sports, hunting, hiking and riding, boating, group camping, wilderness travel, gathering forest products, scientific study and hobbies and other activities.

Gibney said the use statistics are based on information gathered from traffic counters, supplemented by personal observations of forest officers. Over a period of years, they give an indication of trends in recreation use that reflect the people's needs.

Your Social Security

Q I served with the Marines Corps from 1928 to 1938. Do I receive any social security credits for this service?

A Free social security credits of \$160 a month can only be granted to individuals who served on active duty in the military service after September 15, 1940 and before 1957. Since your service was before 1940, you will not receive the free credits.

Q When did the members of the military services first become covered by social security? A On January 1, 1957.

Q My husband is retired and draws \$120 a month from social security. I'll be 62 in July, and he says that I can get social security on his account then. How much can I get?

A If you start collecting benefits at 62, you will receive \$40 a month, which represents half of your husband's benefits, less 25 percent for having elected to get payments at the age of 62 instead of waiting until you are 65.

Q I understand my wife's social security benefit payments will be cut 25 percent if she requests them at 62. How much would the reduction be if she waits until she's 63 or 64?

A About 17 percent at 63; about 9 percent at 64. The closer to 65 she is when she claims her benefit payments, the smaller the reduction.

Q I'm a widow and didn't apply for social security benefits on my husband's record when I was 62 because I didn't want my payments reduced. I'll be 63 this month. If I put in for my widow's checks now, by how much will they be reduced?

A Unlike a woman worker's or a wife's, widow's benefits aren't reduced at ages under 65. Every month that you now delay calling at your social security office, you are losing money. Since your claim can go 12 months back, come in right away and we can pay you full

CHUCKLE CORNER



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