

22 DEAD IN NW STORM'S WAKE

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

HERE is another of those interesting and significant little stories: "Property taxes increased \$11,197,789 to a total of \$90,777,244 (note, please that it is MILLIONS) that are involved in the 1949-50 fiscal year in Oregon's 24 counties. That was the report today from the Oregon Business & Tax Research Organization.

"The compilation included assessments and fees in water and irrigation districts and other minor taxing divisions. The report said schools accounted for 76 per cent of all property taxes."

THAT recalls another of these "interesting and significant" little contributions to the news of the day. It appeared in the papers a day or so ago. It read:

"Value of NON-TAXABLE property in Oregon this year is \$521,399,998, a reduction of \$77,101,017 from the \$598,440,075 of 1948."

Note again that the story deals in millions—this time in HUNDREDS of millions. In spite of a reduction from last year, we have in Oregon MORE THAN HALF A BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF PROPERTY THAT ISN'T TAXED.

DON'T get too hot under the collar all at once.

I haven't the actual figures before me, but I assume that the biggest single chunk of this non-taxable property is made up of the federal possessions in Oregon. As everybody knows, roughly half of all the land area of Oregon is owned by the federal government.

Then there is church property, school property, charitable institution property—a whole long list of kinds of property we don't tax. There are doubtless good reasons for not taxing it. At any rate, the reasons have been good enough to convince the legislature, in most cases, and the electorate in those cases where the exemptions have been sanctioned by a vote of the people.

Still, it is a little shocking to realize that here in the comparatively small state of Oregon we have a half BILLION dollars worth of property that isn't taxed. It helps to explain why the levy is rather large on the remainder that IS taxed.

I DON'T want to be understood as being all steamed up over this situation. It prevails rather generally over our country. It has come up and down the road. In most cases, there have been reasons that seemed at the time to be sufficiently weighty to warrant the exemptions.

STILL—We are changing our economy. The idea of the "welfare state" is intruding our minds. We are moving slowly but definitely, in the direction of socialism.

These trends will mean great changes in our way of life.

ELSEWHERE over the world (with comparatively few exceptions) populations tend to be divided into CLASSES. These classes tend over the centuries to become as sharply differentiated from each other as the layers in a layer cake. One of the tragedies of the class system is the fact that it is difficult to move out of one class into another class—especially into a class HIGHER UP.

THIS is a historical fact: IN THE CREATION OF THIS CLASS SYSTEM, TAX EXEMPTION (or at least tax favoritism) HAS BEEN A POWERFUL FACTOR IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIVILEGED CLASSES.

WHATEVER we do in the way of "welfare states," "leave-it-to-papa-states," and so on, I'm sure we don't want to duplicate in America EVER the ancient and depressing system of fixed classes.

Anyway, we ought to keep clear in our minds that this whole business of tax exemption plus INEQUALITY in taxation has tended over the centuries of the past to create FIXED privileged classes.



TRAFFIC VICTIM SCREAMS WITH PAIN—Mrs. Donna Reuser, 25, her neck broken in a Los Angeles traffic accident, screams in agony at a receiving hospital while awaiting treatment. With her is Officer Charles B. Yocum. The speeding auto in which she was riding went out of control and crashed into a traffic signal. Police booked the driver, Leland Hanson, 28, who received a broken back and possible broken neck, on drunk driving charges.

Momentous Step In Peacetime Use Of Atomics Aired

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28 (AP)—The atomic energy commission disclosed today that it has worked out scientific designs for a plant to "breed" precious atomic materials.

If the plan works as anticipated, it will be of momentous importance in supplying atomic materials for such peacetime projects as atomic powered ships and aircraft.

Bishop Urges Sterilization, Birth Control

BIRMINGHAM, England, Nov. 28 (AP)—A Church of England bishop urged Britain today to sterilize the unfit and make birth control a national policy.

Dr. E. W. Barnes, bishop of Birmingham, estimated "six to ten per cent" of the British population is "mentally below par" and should be sterilized. He said unless this is done Britain will become dangerously overcrowded, and called the British Isles "the paupers of the English speaking world."

Pressing
The bishop told the Birmingham Rotary club in a prepared speech the government's welfare state has made the problem more pressing than ever.

"We must get rid of the slovenly, vicious, idle wasters of the community," Dr. Barnes declared. "Unfortunately, the welfare state is only too likely to encourage their increase."

Dr. Barnes said the population of England and Wales alone has risen from around 4,000,000 in Elizabethan (the 1500's) times to 11 times that today.

Overpopulated
"We are overpopulated," he said. "The task of finding ever larger quantities of food from abroad is most difficult for a virtually bankrupt country."

The announcement was made in connection with a news conference held by David E. Lilienthal, the retiring AEC chairman. Dr. Lawrence R. Hafstad, sitting in with Lilienthal, told about it. Hafstad is director of the AEC's "reactor development" program.

Big Step
Hafstad called it "the biggest forward step in peacetime application" of atomic energy.

He said that while the project still is only a pencil and paper job, the designers are confident that it will work.

The AEC announced that it is beginning immediately construction of a test plant.

Laughed
Lilienthal simply laughed off charges from Senator Edwin C. Johnson (D-Colo.) that he is engaged in conversations of possible broader exchange of atomic information. A new series of talks began today at the state department.

Asked what might come of them, Lilienthal said he thinks the talks are "exploratory" and that any commitment must come from the state department.

Cooperation
He said it is his personal view that it is desirable to cooperate as widely as possible with the British and Canadians. But he insisted it is up to the state department, and congress, to make the final decision on how wide this field should be.

CHOIR SLATED
NEWBERG, Nov. 28 (AP)—George Fox college's a cappella choir will open its Christmas concert season December 15, according to Director Roy P. Clark.

Klamath and News

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Local Wrecks Kill 3; 1 Klamath, 2 Siskiyou

2000 Said Killed In Russ Mine

BERLIN, Nov. 28 (AP) The British-licensed newspaper Telegraf said today 2000 persons perished in a uranium mine fire in the Soviet zone last Thursday. The paper said it was one of the worst mine disasters in history and charged that it was due to negligence.

In an early edition, Telegraf said 400 German miners died in the blaze, which occurred in a mine in the Erz mountains, on the Saxony-Czechoslovak border, near Johanngeorgenstadt. In its evening edition, it said later reports had revised the casualty list upward, to 2000. Only 300 miners were reportedly rescued. The bulk of the workers, said Telegraf, were political prisoners.

Reliable
The American-sponsored Berlin radio Rias, said it has received a report from a reliable source that hundreds of miners had burned or suffocated in a Johanngeorgenstadt uranium mine fire.

American intelligence officers said they had not heard any reports yet on such a disaster.

The paper also reported that 300 miners were drowned several weeks ago when another uranium mine was flooded. Uranium is used in the production of atomic energy.

Sex Murder Witness Gets Threat

PITTSBURGH, Nov. 28 (AP)—A witness in the brutal killing of a pretty dress shop salesgirl today received a threat against her own life.

The witness is Mrs. Ellen Flannagan, who Friday night looked out her window and saw a strange man leap from the shadows and attack Jean Brusco, 38.

Threat Relay
The threat was phoned to a woman who lives on the first floor of the Flannagan home. A soft-voiced man told the woman:

"You convey this message to Mrs. Flannagan. Tell her to keep her mouth shut or she'll get what the Brusco woman got."

A special police guard was immediately sent to the Flannagan home. Meanwhile, another 30 men are on the special detail assigned to hunt the sex fiend who raped and killed the dark-haired woman.

A milkman found her semi-nude body at dawn Saturday.

Gomez New Colombian President

BOGOTA, Colombia, Nov. 28 (AP) The conservative party announced today it elected Laureano Gomez president of Colombia by the largest vote ever cast in this country by a single party. He was the only candidate. The embittered liberal party withdrew its nominee and boycotted the voting.

Nearly complete returns announced by the conservatives for yesterday's balloting gave Gomez 956,315 votes. The conservatives now can lay claim to being the majority party. The liberals claimed that position up to yesterday on the basis of the 837,000 votes they polled in winning majorities in both houses of congress last June.

The candidacy of Dario Echandia, the liberal leader, was withdrawn when conservative President Mariano Ospina Perez proclaimed a state of siege three weeks ago after a long series of violent outbreaks and bloodshed.

DIES
NYSSA, Ore., Nov. 28 (AP)—Raymond G. Larson, 54, manager of the Nyssa-Nampa Amalgamated Sugar Company for the past 11 years, died at his home yesterday of a heart attack.

He was a former Malheur county farm agent and past president of the chamber of commerce here. His widow and two children survive.



IT AIN'T HAY—Old Dobbin tries to take a bite out of this parking meter which has just been installed at Worcester, Mass. He didn't say whether he expected to eat it, drink from it or just wanted to show his disgust over the new-fangled hitching post. Neither teeth nor parking meter was hurt.

3 Arrested, Charged With Drunk Driving

Three persons were arrested over the week-end on drunk driving charges, two here in Klamath Falls and one on the highway near Bly.

James Gill Burk, 40, of Lakeview, was booked at the Bly city jail and held in lieu of \$350 bail after his arrest by state police when he reportedly ran another car into a barrow pit.

Threat Relay
Karl Perry Edwards, 27, of Glendale, Ore., was fined \$100 and sentenced to 30 days in the city jail here this morning. He was arrested for driving while intoxicated on Main street early Sunday morning and said he had been drinking at Mallin.

An earlier charge against Edwards, that of failure to yield the right of way to a pedestrian, was also brought out and a \$25 fine assessed.

Jose L. Gallardo, 22-year-old transient, also pleaded guilty to drunk driving this morning in municipal court, along with a companion charge of disorderly conduct. He was fined a total of \$115 and sentenced to jail for 30 days.

Gallardo was arrested on Main Saturday night.

Truman Off For Florida Vacation

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28 (AP) President Truman left today for Key West, Fla., where he will spend the next three weeks resting and working.

Virtually the full White House staff was aboard the presidential plane. "Independence," as it took off at 8:31 a. m. for the four-hour flight to Boca Chica airport.

Little White House
The president and his party will drive the eight and half miles from the airport to the Key West naval submarine station where he will make his headquarters for the seventh time. The "Little White House" there was shined up for his arrival. Charles G. Ross said in advance that Truman expected to "carry on business as usual" at Key West.

Electricians' New Union Eyes Pensions

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 28 (AP) The CIO's new electrical workers union opened its week-long founding convention today with its sights already set on \$100-a-month pensions and a four-hour work day boost.

Those economic aims were announced yesterday by James B. Carey, acting leader of the recently-formed right-wing organization—the International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers (IUE).

The convention's keynote speech today is to be delivered by CIO President Philip Murray. His remarks are to be "off the cuff" but many delegates believe Carey—in a statement yesterday—sounded their tone—an anti-communist blast.

OTI Registering Winter Students

Registration for winter term at Oretch began this morning, however the student enrollment has not reached the number expected, according to Winston Purvine, director of OTI.

Full credit will be given for courses registered by Friday of this week, when registration ends. Ninety new students are expected to enroll for winter term, Purvine said.

HORTICULTURAL MEET
WALLA WALLA, Nov. 28 (AP)—The Blue Mountain Horticultural society will hold its second annual convention at Milton-Freewater, Ore., tomorrow and Wednesday.

M. R. Harris and Charles Wright, plant pathologists from Pullman, will discuss vegetable diseases.

2-Year-Old Boy Among Victims

Three persons—one a two-year-old boy—died in this vicinity over the week-end as a result of automobile accidents.

Little Alfred Morton Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward M. Smith of Weyerhaeuser camp 4, died Sunday morning at Klamath Valley hospital, a little less than 24 hours after he had been hurt in a wreck west of Keno.

His death brought Klamath county's 1949 traffic toll to 16. The child apparently was run over by his father's car. Mr. and Mrs. Smith and three young children were driving toward Klamath Falls when the car skidded on wet pavement as it rounded a curve half a mile from Keno.

Fatal Skid
The car skidded into the left rear of a California Oregon Power company truck driven 1949 Auto by Glen Bowen, Copco Fatality water superintendent, then careened into a ditch.

When the car hit the truck a door swung open and little Alfred fell out, apparently falling beneath the rear wheel of the car.

The boy was brought to the hospital by Vern R. Gibbs, camp 4, who came upon the accident scene a few minutes later.

Bowen's truck had pulled almost off the highway and stopped to avoid the collision, state police reported.

The body of the youngster was taken to Wards funeral home. He is survived by his father and mother, a brother, Bruce Leo, aged 3, and a sister, Janet Louise, aged 10 months.

Dead
Dead are Charles Lawrence Scott, 19, of Taft, Calif., and Edgel Louis Stevens, 24, of Oakland. Both are employees of the Long-Bell Lumber company at Weed.

A passenger in their car, Elwen Haines, 18, of Mt. Shasta, was critically injured and three other persons were also hurt in the crash.

California highway officers said Scott apparently tried to make a turn at an auto court on Abrams lake road at Mt. Shasta when his car skidded on the wet pavement and went broadside into a taxi driven by William E. Ryan of Mt. Shasta.

Damage Cost In Millions; Flood Feared

SEATTLE, Nov. 28 (AP) The fertile Skagit valley in Northwest Washington state braced for another serious flood threat today after a week-end storm had claimed 22 lives in the Pacific Northwest.

The storm shot across North Idaho and Montana during the night, and then lost much of its punch as it veered north into Manitoba, Canada.

Fourteen of the victims died in British Columbia. Property damage throughout the storm area was estimated in the millions of dollars, with Washington state the hardest hit.

DEATH LIST

By The Associated Press Washington

Roy Carr, Shelton, drowned when car swept off U. S. highway 101 at entrance to Skokomish river valley.

Mrs. I. C. Ransome, 68, Ketchikan, Alaska, fatally injured when car driven by her husband struck rock washed down by storm five miles south of Kelo.

R. J. Tingley, 43, Daming, electrocuted near Emerson when he stepped on 13,000 volt power line blown down by wind.

Oregon
Ray Anakin, Troutdale, drowned when he fell from tugboat into Columbia river during storm.

Edward Shawn and Kenneth Mears, Tongue Point naval station, killed when car crashed into fallen tree near Gearhart.

Montana
Eugene Jefferson, 64, killed when wind toppled wall of his barn at his farm 25 miles north of Missoula.

British Columbia
Gordon John Fullerton, 24, North Vancouver, drowned when swept into Capilano river while sandbagging its banks.

Six crew members of tugboat, all of Victoria, who drowned when craft capsized Saturday off-Victoria.

Towns Flooded
Five towns in the Skagit valley were flooded by the Skagit river. Horses and cattle were drowned and several persons were rescued by boat, but no deaths or injuries were reported.

The river dropped during the forenoon, but W. R. Whitnall of the Skagit county engineer's office at Mount Vernon, said it might begin rising again with high tide on Puget sound at about 12:45 p. m.

The usually placid stream branches into two forks near its mouth and both empty into the sound. Whitnall said if the dikes at Mount Vernon—designed to handle 26 1/2 feet of water—could withstand the back-up from the sound, the worst would be over.

Battle
The river level was 25.01 feet at about 10:30 a. m. It reached the 26.05 level at 3 a. m. Rain-drenched sandbagging crews of between 350 and 500 men worked furiously through the night strengthening the dikes.

South of Mount Vernon, dikes gave way in two places. One was between the communities of La Conner and Conway, five miles south of Mount Vernon and the other was near the North Fork bridge, just south of Conway. This second break tore out a half mile of Great Northern railway track near Milltown.

Danger
Harold Strombon, assistant Skagit county engineer, said if the high level of the river continued long, the dikes might become saturated and suffer breaks.

Army and coast guard rescue crews and hundreds of volunteers worked throughout the night at other spots in the valley sand-bagging dikes.

Meet the People



SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE is the imposing title of Evelyn McKay who greets you as you enter the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph office. Her duties include checking new accounts as she is doing here.



RETURN STARES—The unabashed London quads of England return the stares of spectators at the Mothercraft exhibition in Taylor. The quads, who were 13 months old on November 21, are (left to right) Kevin, Annette, Paul and Robert.