



LOOKING OVER THE SCORE for the second annual Church Choir Festival are Andrew Loney, director of music education in city schools (left), and Rev. Irvin Tweet, director. The program, which will include both church and high school choirs, will be presented April 6 at four o'clock in Pelican Court.

Church Choir Festival To Be Held Here On April 6

Rehearsals are well under way for the second annual Church Choir Festival which is to be presented by massed church and high school choruses on April 6 at 4:00 p.m. at Pelican Court. A fine program of beautiful sacred music has been planned by Chairman Rev. Irvin Tweet, and will be presented under the baton of Andrew Loney of KUHS.

Much interest has been expressed in this annual community event and it is hoped the public will overflow Pelican Court as it did last year at this event, when Noble Cain directed. This year the Klamath Musical Arts Council, sponsor of the event, has availed itself of the fine musical leadership of Andrew Loney. Mr. Loney's contribution to music in this community is great indeed, and the Council is proud to be able to plan such an extensive program making use only of local talent.

The huge chorus will be made up in part by choirs from the First Presbyterian Church, the First Methodist Church, the Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church and joint choirs from the Zion Lutheran, Klamath Lutheran and Hope Lutheran Churches as well as choirs from KUHS. The program will include numbers by the massed choruses as well as solos by the individual choirs.

This program is free to the public, and everyone is invited to attend.

Brosterhous Wins Contract

Brosterhous Construction Co., Klamath Falls, was low bidder and has been awarded a contract to build a six classroom addition to Sacred Heart Academy. The company's bid total was \$86,194.

Second bidder was Bill Duncan, Klamath Falls, who bid \$86,388. Other bidders included: Pinniger and Watkins \$87,580; Leo N. Huls, \$87,412; Riverman and Sons, Portland, \$90,970; R. E. Meade Co., Grants Pass, \$91,530; Ernest J. Hepp, Medford, \$94,686; Howard Burkhard, Klamath Falls, \$95,300; and N. K. Porter, Grants Pass, \$112,217.

Brosterhous set his completion date for the job as Aug. 31. Duncan, just behind in bidding, had set his completion date at Sept. 2.

The job will add 8600 square feet of floor space to Sacred Heart, and will join the present school building at the south end.

Architect Howard R. Perrin pointed out the bids were at the extremely low rate of about \$10 per square foot.

Merchants Meet With Tax Experts On Issue Of Stock Inventories

Klamath County isn't the only place where people are in ditch over personal property tax assessments, members of the Klamath Merchants Association were told last night by Robert MacLean, member of the state Tax Commission.

Mendez To Play Here

In Philadelphia the other day, Andrew Loney Jr., city schools music director, saw graphic evidence of the artistry of Rafael Mendez. (Mendez, a world famed trumpeter, is to appear in concert here tomorrow night with the Klamath Union High School a cappella choir and concert band).

Loney, in Philadelphia to attend a national music conference, was backstage at a rehearsal of the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra. Mendez, who had been in New York for an appearance on Red Skelton's TV show, paid the Philadelphia Symphony a surprise visit. Loney said the symphony's brass section "almost mobbed Mendez."

"They carried on like the bobby-soxers used to do when Frank Sinatra came around," said Loney. "They pumped Mendez's hands and pounded him on the back. I heard the notes of the orchestra men say Mendez was undoubtedly the greatest brass soloist of all times."

Mendez' appearance here tomorrow night will be the first such concert he has ever offered. The noted trumpeter, who has appeared in many of the world's leading concert halls, agreed to come here when approached by Loney through a mutual friend.

The concert tomorrow night is a benefit with proceeds to go toward buying new KUHS band uniforms.

The concert is at the Pelican Theater, 8 p.m., tomorrow.

Recreation Plans To Be In Effect

PORTLAND (AP) — Recreational plans for three Columbia Basin reservoirs will be put into writing at an April 17 meeting in Seattle.

Federal and state officials will confer then on the Long Lake, Potholes and Scootney reservoirs. Neal Butterfield, who headed the recreation survey for the National Park Service, said he had recommended that the three be administered by the Washington State Park Service.

A Tax Commission spot check in every county showed that a high percentage of Oregon businessmen are prone to undervalue their merchandise inventories for tax purposes.

But, said MacLean, the Tax Commission is trying to put a stop to the practice.

Several weeks ago the Commission made a quick check of the books of 27 firms here, compared them with the personal property inventory reports made to the County Assessor by those firms, and found that 24 out of the 27 were lower than what they probably should have been.

The same type check was made in 10 counties at that time and the results in all were about the same. Now, MacLean said, all of Oregon's 36 counties have been checked on the same basis and the tendency to undervalue was uncovered everywhere.

MacLean said it is his opinion that at least \$100,000,000 worth of merchandise on the shelves of businesses in Oregon was not reported for taxation.

A complete re-check of all personal property returns on merchandise has been ordered here, and a deputy from the Assessor's office has been directed to visit each business place in the county for a personal look-see.

The undervaluation of stock-in-trade for tax purposes has been going on for years, MacLean said. An "honor system" for reporting personal property was instituted in Oregon in 1941 and up until now there has been very little investigation to see how it works. Under the system the merchant reports a figure that is supposed to represent the "true cash value" of his inventory as of Jan. 1 each year, and his assessment and eventually his tax is figured from that.

Since the war, MacLean said, while real estate values have been rising steadily, the assessed valuations for taxing real property have been remaining about what they were in 1941. Merchants, however, are expected to report every year their rising values and have been taxed on higher assessed values, so they began to get the idea that they were paying more than their fair share of the property taxes.

To remedy that, MacLean said, it is evident a good many merchants were taking matters into

their own hands, trying to regulate the amount of tax they have to pay by juggling the amount of inventory reported.

It's been going on for years, the Tax Commissioner said, and is so widespread that it's comparable to prohibition days—any thought of prosecution is out of the question.

But, he declared, the Tax Commission is going to insist on 100 per cent true returns this year and here on out.

Here in Klamath County the spot check showed returns reporting the "true cash value" of inventories down as low as 6 per cent of what the Tax Commission figured it should be, and also showed some disproportionately high. One merchant turned in 118 per cent report, way above what he should have. But the average was about 87 per cent.

Last night's meeting was conducted by Carl Sparks, Merchants Association president, and Charlie Mack, head of the association's tax committee, but most of the talking and explaining fell to MacLean. A few questions on procedures were directed to Otis Metsker, County Assessor.

Most of the merchants attending the session seemed to feel there was some differential or discrimination in the way their property was being assessed compared with other types of personal property such as livestock, farm and industrial equipment and the like.

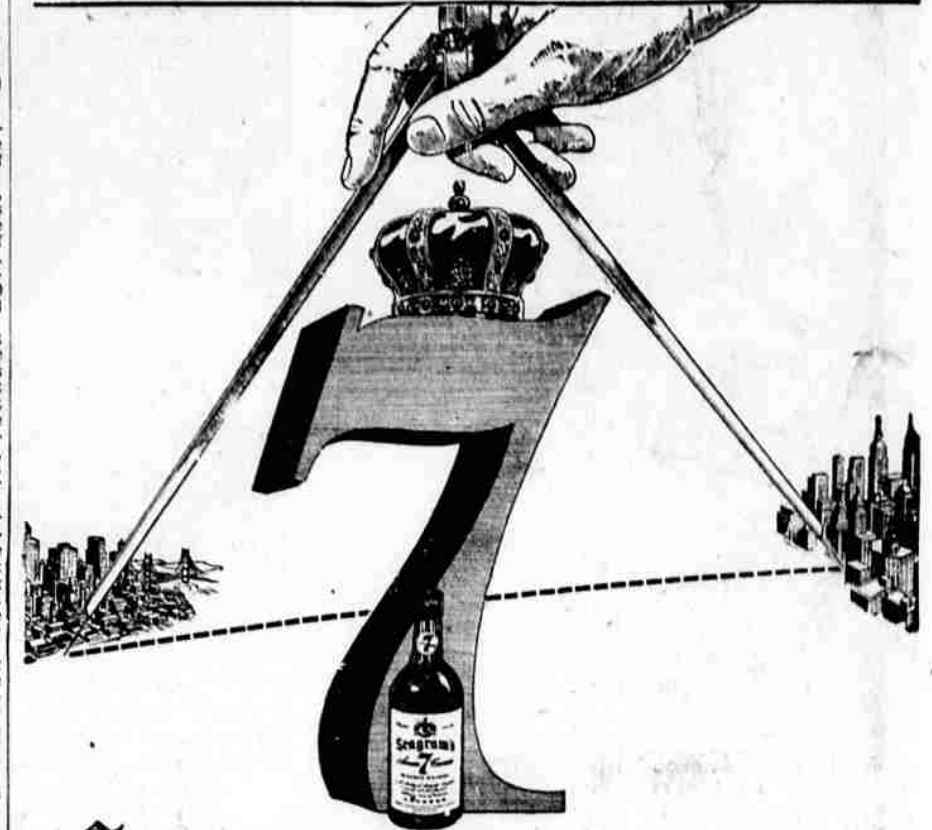
Inequities do exist, Metsker and MacLean said, but as fast as possible all property is being assessed to try to get everything taxed on the same basis.

The tax situation in Oregon, MacLean said, has gotten into a chaotic

condition, and the personal property angle is just one part of it. Rep. Ed Geary, member of the Legislature, said he believed the next session of the Legislature will have a measure before it making a complete revision in the state's tax setup.

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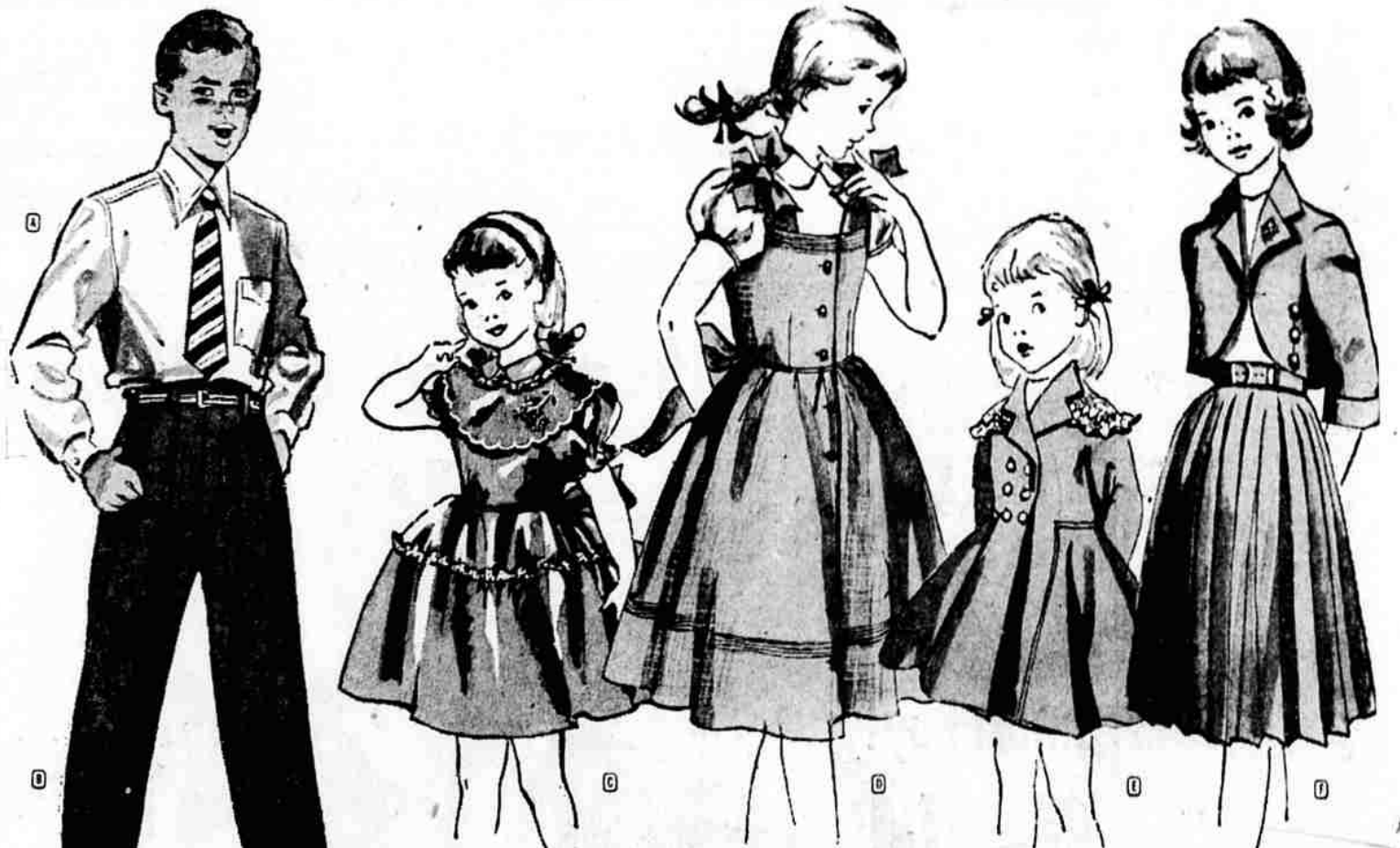
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