

Klamath Taxes Explained

(Continued from page 1)

public utilities paid on a ratio of 31 per cent as compared to the 18 per cent on other real property. This year the tax commission ordered the reduction of the ratio on public utilities to 25 per cent, or a cut of 6 per cent.

NEW ORDER

The State Tax Commission was ordered by the Legislature in 1953 to begin this equalization of property tax ratios within the state. The equalization has generally been accomplished at about three per cent per year; but this year

the state tax office ordered the six per cent reduction which resulted in the large loss in assessed valuation in Klamath County.

In summarizing the tax structure of the state, Dickson pointed out that the State Tax Commission has also lowered the assessment ratio on personal property this year in Klamath County from 23 per cent to 21 per cent. This is in line with the plan of the tax commission to equalize all real-personal property taxes in the state by 1961. At that time, they expect to have all three categories of taxes using the same assessment ratio.

"With the downward trend in public utilities assessment ratios, the owners of real and personal property—especially real property—probably will be paying an increasing proportion of the tax bill," Dickson stated.

Dickson said, however, that the public utilities will still be paying about the same total tax bill in the state. But, instead of paying a large real property tax to the individual counties, they will be making up the difference by paying a state excise tax. Thus, the state will be benefiting while the counties must levy higher property taxes to raise their needed funds.

PROPERTY TAX

The property tax increase in Klamath County, and in most other counties of the state, can be tied to two factors. First, the lowering of the assessment ratio of the public utilities with the resulting loss in tax revenue base which had to be made up by increasing the tax rate on all other real property. Second, to the increase in the budgets of school districts (as voted by the people) and in the operating costs of the county and the incorporated cities. (Under Oregon law cities and counties may increase their budgets six per cent over the highest budget of any previous budget for a period of three years without submitting the budget to a vote of the people.

Marines To End 'Boot' Leaves

PARRIS ISLAND, S.C. (UP)—Boot leave will become a thing of the past at this Marine Corps recruit training center after Nov. 1. Officials announced Tuesday that on that date the base will discontinue the practice of giving the traditional 10-day leaves for recruits on completion of their "boot training."

Instead the trainees will be shipped directly to Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Most governing bodies in the state that fall under this law have increased their budgets this six per cent in order to supply the services asked by the people.

Referring to the comparison of the tax rate of Klamath Falls with other cities of Oregon, Dickson revealed that the nine top tax rate cities pay on the following ratios and millage rates. (All comparisons are shown on property with a market value of \$10,000.) Albany, ratio 26 per cent, millage 127.7; tax \$343.02; Coos Bay, ratio 25 per cent, millage 114.1; tax \$319.48; Coquille, ratio 23 per cent, millage 111.2; tax \$311.36; Portland, ratio 45 per cent, millage 68.5; tax \$308.25; Oregon City, ratio 25 per cent, millage 107.1; tax \$267.75; Bend, ratio, 26 per cent, millage 101.9; tax \$264.94; Salem, ratio 25 per cent, millage 104.3; tax \$260.75; Tillamook, ratio 20 per cent, millage 127.0; tax \$254.00; Eugene, ratio 31 per cent, millage 81.4; tax \$232.32. And Klamath Falls has: ratio 18 per cent, millage 134.8; tax \$242.64.

TAX DISTRICTS
Last year there were 35 separate taxing districts in Klamath County. Dickson said but due to the establishment of the Bonanza Cemetery District three more taxing districts were added to the rolls making the total of taxing districts this year 38. This number of taxing districts is necessary due to the overlapping of various special taxing districts, municipalities and school districts. Dickson stated.

As an example, if you reside within the corporate limits of Klamath Falls (Code 1 area in the taxing district schedule) your property tax is made up of 23.9 mills for the county, 35.3 mills for the city of Klamath Falls, 26.9 mills for Klamath Union High School District, and 46.7 mills for the City Elementary District making a total of 134.8 mills of tax.

The breakdown of the code areas has been mailed, or will be mailed by this weekend, to all the taxpayers with addresses registered with the county assessors office. Dickson stated. He said that anyone not receiving this summary in the mail may obtain one by calling at the assessor's office in the Klamath County Courthouse.

Dickson explained that the assessor is also required by state law to collect certain fees from property owners residing within drainage and irrigation districts. He must also collect certain forest fees and fire patrol fees. These fees are added to the tax bill of the property within these districts and then the money collected is turned over to the individual districts by the county treasurer's office.

The other 36 taxing districts, or code area, taxes are determined in this same manner, although the particular tax districts involved will vary, Dickson pointed out.

A tax summary listing all the taxes to be collected and showing

the breakdown of the code areas has been mailed, or will be mailed by this weekend, to all the taxpayers with addresses registered with the county assessors office. Dickson stated. He said that anyone not receiving this summary in the mail may obtain one by calling at the assessor's office in the Klamath County Courthouse.

The list of drainage and irrigation districts follows: Klamath Drainage, Pine Grove, Malin Irrigation, Keno Irrigation, Langell Valley Irrigation, Meadows Drainage, Klamath Irrigation, Sunnyside Irrigation, Lakeshore Drainage, and Upper Van Brimmer Drainage. Enterprise Irrigation District collects its own fees, Dickson explained.

The tax bills have been mailed to all property owners in the county.

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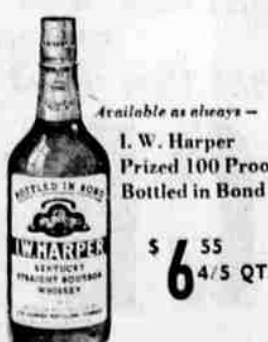


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