

The Herald and News

FRANK JENKINS
Editor
BILL JENKINS
Managing Editor
FLOYD WYNNE
City Editor

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Weather

By BILL JENKINS
About every so often it's a good idea to go back and take a look at what we are so "sure" of in the past. Weather is one of the surest things on which most of us make mistakes. We always remember last year as being either better or worse than it was.
Since there has been a good deal of grumbling this month already and numerous references to the past I'll take the liberty of quoting from the weather record.
The notation for November one of last year reads "Woke up to three or four inches of snow. Slacking off by nine o'clock, light rain off and on all day. Thawed all night. Snow mostly gone by morning. High 34, low 28."
On November second I noted that the snow was all gone and that I was going hunting in California. No shots were fired on that trip.
It cleared up somewhat, although was foggy in the mornings at least through the sixth, which was election day. From there on I noted clear weather, the eighth having a "beautiful afternoon and evening."
It stayed clear with foggy mornings until the 17th, on which date I noted a rainy morning but a clear afternoon. A skim of ice formed on the Upper Lake on the 20th and it was clear and beautiful for Thanksgiving on the 22nd. The high that day was 41 and the low 23 degrees.
The remainder of the month stayed bright and clear. I have noted several trips to Aspen Lake on beautiful days.
To peek ahead a little, December of last year saw a clear start but rain on the fourth and snow starting on the fifth. Clear weather then until the 11th when it rained hard all day and all night. It had cleared by the 14th, we had a drizzle of rain on the 17th, some snow the night of the 20th. It stayed clear then for the rest of the month with only a slight spit of rain on the last day. I note in the book that I was out weeding the front lawn on the 23rd, that I took the dog to Aspen Lake on the 29th and drove out by way of Long Lake on a "clear and beautiful day."
So there you have it. That's how the record here shows it.
Somehow I was remembering it as a better period than that, but then maybe it has just been the miserable weather this fall that has made me think so.

Restrictions

By FLORENCE JENKINS
Commercial Christmas tree cutting under permit or purchase agreement is well underway in many parts of Oregon's forest land.
Because Southern Oregon has always been a handy market for Oregon Christmas trees, it is well for Oregon sellers to take a close look at the stricter regulations now governing Christmas tree retailing in our sister state.
Under the California Tinerant Merchants Act, the California State Board of Equalization requires an out-of-state resident to purchase a license at the same time he secures his seller's permit. The fee for this license is \$20 for each vehicle used by him in the conduct of his business.
During the coming season, the board will require a deposit from every tinerant seller subject to sales tax in California. The board will set the amount of the deposit to correspond with the amount of tax liability estimated by the board. This estimate is based on the operator's expenses, cost of tree to be sold, rent and other commitments and any additional information which might be pertinent. At the close of the season, the retailer who has kept proper accounts and filed his return with the local office of the board, will receive any balance there may be in his deposit account after deducting the taxes due.
In past years, a rough figure of approximately 10 per cent of the estimated gross has been used, despite the fact that California tax is only three per cent. The 10 per cent will average out at about \$400 per lot deposit.
Other state agencies have announced their intention to crack down this year and to have periodic checks of the retail Christmas tree lots to control the operators who are trying to sell without proper permits.
Every Oregon resident carrying Christmas trees across the California border will do well to have a complete portfolio. His documents should include land clearance papers which show ownership of the trees, bills of sale from land owners or Christmas tree growers and supplies so he is able to prove clear title to the Christmas trees he hopes to sell.
In return, California doesn't even promise Christmas weather in December.

Salem Sidelights

By SEN. HARRY D. BOIVIN
Oregon legislators adjourned the special session late Friday to return to homes and businesses after passing a compromise tax bill which allows a 26.03 per cent reduction in the amount of income tax rates.
The House approved the final amendments 56-4, and within the hour the Senate gave its okay with only one dissenting vote — that of

Sen. Monroe Sweetland, Milwaukee Democrat.

Although I personally prefer a greater reduction in income tax rates and joined the Senate coalition which favored a 30 per cent cut, I voted for HB 1 — the tax relief measure — in its final amended stage because it does give some relief to income tax payers. I am still opposed to the theory of retaining a large surplus in the state treasury, since I feel that it can easily be a temptation for extravagance by various state agencies. I also feel that if we continue to build up a surplus in the state, on the theory (which is propounded by some) that a greater surplus is an insurance for future needs, we are assuming unnecessary responsibilities for Oregon taxpayers. A continuing large surplus, in effect, pyramids taxes.

The final compromise proposal, which was signed by the eight-man conference committee Friday, incorporates many features which were proposed in individual bills introduced earlier in the special session, some of which I sponsored.

The tax relief program for Oregon which we accepted is a "middle of the line" compromise between the bipartisan plan for a 30 per cent income tax reduction and the Democratic-supported program calling for a 10 per cent reduction. The compromise provides total tax relief of 37 million dollars this biennium, leaving 32 million dollars of the estimated 74 million dollar surplus for the next biennium.

The compromise calls for an 18.5 per cent reduction in personal income tax schedules, plus several fringe benefits. Among these fringe benefits are provisions for loss carryover and accelerated depreciation, which will apply solely to businesses, and additional tax benefits for the blind and for persons who are 65 years old.

The tax relief bill also provides that whenever personal income tax collections exceed 85 million dollars a year (which the State Tax Commission says is improbable), there would be an automatic tax decrease to prevent building up of surpluses in the future. The decreases would amount to one per cent for each million dollars collected above the 85 million dollar figure.

The schedule of rates for income tax which is now 4 to 11.6, is dropped under this tax relief bill to a schedule of 3 to 9.5. This means rates of 3 per cent on the first \$500 taxable income; 4 per cent between \$500-\$1,000; 5 per cent from \$1,000-\$1,500; 6 per cent from \$1,500-\$2,000; 7 per cent from \$2,000-\$4,000; 9 per cent from \$4,000-\$8,000 and 9.5 per cent on all over \$8,000.

Not included in the compromise bill, but going hand in hand with the effort to provide a more realistic tax program in Oregon, was the final passage of SB 1, my bill, which prohibits the state from collecting taxes on real property except for bonded indebtedness and interest. The bill passed the Senate with only one negative vote the third day of the session. It was held up in the House Rules Committee until the final day, and when it was brought to the floor for a vote in the closing minutes of the special session, the bill passed 44-16.

I feel SB 1 was the foundation for the revision of Oregon's income tax law, because the State Tax Commission has stated that the threat of the collection of a state real property tax has always tended to make them more conservative in estimating receipts from income tax. In other words, SB 1 will help the State Tax Commission become more realistic and accurate in predicting just how much will be received by the state from income taxes. Although the state tax on real property has not been collected since 1940, it was a constant threat of about 12 per cent tax increase on real property in Klamath County (based on last year's figures) and about a 21 per cent increase in Lake County as long as it remained on the statute books.

While the eight-day struggle for a compromise was in progress, Gov. Robert Holmes made a televised plea for Republican backing of his 10 per cent reduction plan.

His argument was answered Tuesday evening over a Portland television station by five of us — Sen. Ben Musa (D), Phillip Lowry (R), and myself, and Rep. John Goss (R) and Wayne Giesy (R). We emphasized that the surplus is not in the treasury now, but is to be collected from taxpayers between now and June 30, 1959. We outlined our reasons for favoring a substantial income tax cut, in order to allow those surplus millions to be circulated in the state, and therefore contribute to the greater economy of the state. I especially pointed out the need for the passage of SB 1, and reiterated my stand that only by taking the state out of the property tax field can we expect to have more accurate computations by the tax commission on the amount of taxes to be raised, and thereby legislate for more realistic income taxes in Oregon.

Now that the 19-day special session is over, much credit must go to the conference committee which so conscientiously examined the intricate alternate proposals offered by both groups. The third conference committee, which presented the final, adopted program, included Sen. Walter Pearson (D), Portland, Phillip Lowry (R), Medford, Rodie Wilhelm (R), Portland and Lee Ohmart (R), Salem, and Rep. Leon Davis (R), Hillsboro, Clarence Barton (D), Coquille, Guy Jones (D), Salem and Robert Duncan (D), Medford.

It might be a good idea to explain the function of a conference committee in our legislative procedure.

In this case, the tax bill was passed by the House, generally providing for a 10 per cent decrease in income taxes. The Senate amended the bill to provide a 30 per cent decrease, and passed the bill in that form. Because of the amendments, the bill had to return to the House, the place of its origin, for approval or disapproval of the amendments. In this case, the House by vote refused to accept the Senate amendments and requested that a conference committee be appointed by the speaker.

Two members to the conference committee were appointed by the House, and on being so advised, the Senate appointed a similar number to the committee. The purpose of this committee was to attempt to settle the differences between the two branches of the Legislature, and effect a compromise that would be acceptable to the majority of the membership of each house.

On this particular bill, two committees were discharged after stating that they were unable to reach any compromise. A third committee was more fortunate and a compromise was worked out, being the present bill as amended. In brief, the purpose of the conference committee is to provide a more workable method of settling differences on bills between the two branches of the Legislature. These conference committees meet over a period of several days. As a matter of fact, they only recess when new figures, necessary for their computations, were being furnished by the State Tax Commission. An understanding of what various changes in tax rates would do to the surplus and the amount of taxes to be paid by individuals were the problems considered by the conference committee; it was not a case of discussion of personal ideas of the committee members.

Reading Mail

By HAL BOYLE
NEW YORK (AP)—Things a columnist might never know if he didn't open his mail:
That if you aren't color blind, you can be sure you're man or monkey... other forms of animal life are color-blind.
That the world today has 2,796 spoken languages... and English

Pogo



They'll Do It Every Time



Egypt, Syria Study Pact

DAMASCUS (AP)— Syria and Egypt moved closer to a federal union today. Joint committees are expected to begin drafting a constitution soon.
Forty visiting members of Egypt's National Assembly joined Syrian deputies yesterday in voting unanimously for speedy completion of the union, agreed on in principle 16 months ago.
About 2,000 persons crowded into the circular hall of the Syrian Parliament building. There was applause when the joint session approved a resolution calling on both governments "to go into immediate joint negotiations for the complete realization of this federal union."
The federation looks toward joint foreign, defense, economic, financial and cultural policies. The two countries would maintain independence in internal affairs.
Syrian Premier Sabri Assali told the parliamentary session that the merging of the armed forces of the two Arab countries was practically realized when Egyptian troops recently landed in Syria.
Syrian Parliament Speaker Akram Hourani asserted that the United States has launched "a slanderous campaign aimed at picturing Syria as a tool of international communism and a base for the Soviet Union."
Syria, he declared, never will be "a base for anything other than Arab nationalism."

VFW Conducts Drive For Funds

MOUNT SHASTA — The drive for funds with which to conduct research into muscular dystrophy is now under way in Mount Shasta under the leadership of the Mount Shasta Post No. 5238 VFW.
Post Commander Fred Eberhard has called a meeting of all civic groups of the area for Wednesday, November 20, at which time plans will be completed for a door-to-door canvass of the region.
Eberhard has already placed 70 canisters in various places of business for the usual "small change" donations.

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STATE VISIT

ROME (AP)— President Theodor Heuss of West Germany arrived in Rome Tuesday for a state visit to Italy and a meeting with Pope Pius XII.

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