

Officials Plan Discussions Of Problems

A statewide convention of county officials this week in Portland will afford Klamath County an opportunity to thrash out some problems it is having with the state of Oregon.

Specifically, these problems concern medical services for welfare patients and the perennial squabble about how many people live in our county.

The Klamath County Welfare Commission has an appointment for 9 a.m. Wednesday with the medical subcommittee of the State Public Welfare Commission to discuss medical service programs.

The issue, which has reached serious proportions affecting a good many medical patients, stems from the withdrawal August 31 of the Klamath County Medical Society from participation in the state-administered welfare medical program.

"We're going to lay before the (state) commission the problems caused in this county as a result of that withdrawal," one county commission member said.

The issue strictly is between the doctors and the state agency, but Klamath County is caught in the middle.

Mrs. Julia Brown, county welfare administrator, plans to attend the meeting with commission members here. The county commission includes the county court.

On Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. County Judge Bob Walker and Chamber of Commerce Manager Frank Tucker get a chance to discuss with the State Board of Census population figures for the county.

The state board estimated the county's population as of last July 1 at 48,000. The county and chamber think it's more like 55,112.

There is no particular argument about Klamath Falls — the state says 20,200 and the chamber says 21,181 — but there is a dispute about unincorporated areas, particularly the South Suburban Area.

The state says all the county's unincorporated areas held only 24,988 persons last July. The 1950 census listed the areas at 23,921 nine years ago.

"Surely we've grown more than 1,007 in that time," said Tucker. Kingsley Field alone has brought more than 5,000 persons to the county this year, he said.

Survey Fund Shows Rise

Contributions toward a community hospital survey fund rose to \$2,336 today with a \$750 check from the Weyerhaeuser Company.

Chamber of Commerce officials said other recent contributions included \$25 checks each from the Quota and Soroptimist clubs.

The goal is \$8,000 for a survey of present and future hospital needs in the Klamath Basin.

Police Jail Stranded Pair

Two young travelers from Oklahoma City were arrested by state police early Friday morning at the Hilltop Cafe, near the Ashland-Weed Junction, where they apparently planned to spend the night.

Charged with vagrancy were Gary Wayne Duncan, 18, and Joe Lee Walker, 18. The youths were found asleep in a corner booth at 2:45 a.m. Restaurant personnel said they had parked in the booth since 1 a.m. and had been loitering about the place since 11 p.m.

The youths told police they had left Oklahoma City Sunday with two other boys and had got as far as Eugene. There, they said, their driver left them after taking their wallets.

They said they were on their way south to Los Angeles and were stranded on the hilltop when the weather got cold.

MEDFORD SPEAKER

J. D. Vertrees, Klamath County agent, was among speakers at the annual Oregon Weed Conference in Medford concluded Friday. Cranberries were not on the agenda of the meeting but they became a topic of discussion after some of the crop was declared contaminated by a weed killer.

Irrigation District Head Issues Refuge Rebuttal

Editor's Note: The following is an open letter to all interested Klamath area sportsmen from Sam Anderson, president of the Tulelake Irrigation District. We reprint it in its entirety.

In response to many phone calls and our observing many recent newspaper and magazine articles with questions and misinformation, the Tulelake Irrigation District has decided to put out a statement on hunting problems in the Klamath Basin, particularly as these affect the Wildlife Refuge.

We believe that there has been circulated, a great deal of misleading information on the Upper Klamath Basin hunting problems. We have arranged this statement in simple question and answer form for convenient use. In many instances we have used quotations from the documentary sources.

One other question that naturally arises: What should the sportsmen do?

1. Urge the service to open more and better of the land in the Basin for hunting, up to at least 40 per cent of the area.

2. Urge the development of the land and water resources of the present Lower Klamath Lake Wildlife Refuge.

3. Urge the Fish and Wildlife to negotiate with the interested parties; the United States Bureau of Reclamation, the California-Oregon Klamath River Commission, the State Fish and Game Commission, Siskiyou and Modoc counties and the Tulelake Irrigation District, to acquire land and water rights for a more adequate refuge in Lower Klamath.

The sportsmen should also realize that the service is not dedicated to provide good hunting, but to the propagation and preservation of the birds. The present \$5 Duck Stamp Law is inadequate for the sportsmen, because it neither recognizes the need for the development of the lands to be

acquired, nor does the 40 per cent limit on the public hunting area, particularly in larger refuges, recognize the optimum use of the land for hunting or conservation purposes. These large blocks of land provide too much closed area to make possible good hunting.

In the event that you wish further information or to conduct an on the spot investigation, please contact either myself or manager, Maurice K. Strantz, at Tulelake 7-1301.

Tulelake Irrigation District Sam Anderson, president

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Q. Is the bird harvest down on the Tule Lake and Lower Klamath Lake refuges in 1959?

A. Yes, for the following reasons:

1. The limit has been reduced.
2. The number of hunters has been less.

3. Weather has been warm and therefore less bird movement.
4. The peak bird numbers are down.

2. Q. Does the lake level affect hunters success?

A. Not directly. Lower lake levels somewhat impede hunter access to the marsh area. Hunters really desiring to hunt the marsh have been able to get there. However, there are relatively few birds in the public hunting areas, since most birds stay in the sanctuary portions because the feed is concentrated there and it is unnecessary for birds to leave.

3. Q. What does the contract say about lake levels?

A. Article 7-B of the contract states: "To the extent that the sums within the district are maintained, they shall be operated and maintained primarily for the protection of lands within the district for agricultural purposes, including flood protection and drainage, and the use of said sums for other uses subject to the rules and regulations provided for in Article 7-D."

Article 7-D provides for the issuance of rules and regulations.

4. Q. What has been the service's historic desire on lake levels?

A. In the 1938 report by the service and the Bureau of Reclamation, which promoted the agreement under which the tunnel and the lake improvements in Tulelake and Lower Klamath Lake were constructed, the three representatives of the service stated, "4. Further, the Reclamation Service proposes to construct a tunnel through the ridge on the west of Tule Lake Refuge, through which approximately 50,000 acre feet of water annually would be pumped into Lower Klamath Lake Basin, thus maintaining the water area of Tule Lake at a uniform level of 4034.0 (U. S. R. S. Datum) as shown on the map."

In January 1955, the regional director of the Fish and Wildlife Service published a report on the Upper Klamath River Basin and stated in that report: "Under present agreement between the bureau and the service an operating level of 4034.0 feet is prescribed as the optimum for Tule Lake." During the hunting season and throughout the summer, the lake has been within an inch of this prescribed optimum and generally on the high side of 4034.0 feet.

5. Q. What is the status of the Tulelake land?

A. Tulelake was ceded to the United States by the State of California for a reclamation project by the act of February 3, 1905: "The people of the State of California, represented in Senate and assembly, do enact as follows: Section 1. That for the purpose of aiding in the operations of irrigation and reclamation conducted by the Reclamation Service of the United States, established by the act of Congress approved June 17, 1902 (32nd Statutes, page 388), known as the Reclamation Act, the United States is hereby authorized to lower the water levels of any or all of the following lakes: Lower or Little Klamath Lake, Tule or Rhett Lake, Goose Lake, and Clear Lake, situated in Siskiyou and Modoc counties, as shown by the map of the United States Geological Survey, and to

use any part or all of the beds of said lakes for the storage of water in connection with such operations.

Section 2. And there is hereby ceded to the United States all the right, title, interest, or claim of any or all of said lakes not already disposed of by this state; and the lands hereby ceded may be disposed of by the United States free of any claim on the part of this state in any manner that may be deemed advisable by the authorized agencies of the United States in pursuance of the provisions of said reclamation act. Provided, that this act shall not be in effect as to lakes herein named, which lie partly in the state of Oregon, until a similar cession has been made by that state."

The state of Oregon and the United States passed similar legislation in February 1905.

6. Q. What is the relationship of the Tulelake Refuge to the reclamation project?

A. The middle paragraph of Executive Order 4975, October 4, 1928, which states: "All of the lands involved have been withdrawn for reclamation purposes in connection with the Klamath Irrigation Project, Oregon-California, and are primarily under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior. The reservation of these lands as a bird refuge is subject to the use thereof by said department for irrigation and other incidental purposes, and to any other valid existing rights." All other orders and agreements before and since have given similar priority to the reclamation project.

7. Q. Who paid for the irrigation, dike and water control facilities in the Tulelake Basin?

A. These facilities, which in part affect the wildlife refuge and have made the wildlife refuge productive, were constructed pursuant to the reclamation law by the United States Bureau of Reclamation and they are being reimbursed by (1) construction charges that are paid and to be paid by the Tulelake Irrigation District, and (2) by lease revenues from the cash rentals paid by Tulelake farmers, to which by law the Tulelake Irrigation District was entitled.

8. Q. Who pays the operating costs of regulating the lake and providing irrigation water to the irrigated lands, both Fish and Wildlife and the leased area?

A. The farmers and the Fish and Wildlife Service pay water charges for operating costs based on a per acre charge, per acre that is irrigated. No charges are paid on the water areas.

9. Q. What does the contract say about homesteading?

A. Article 8 of the contract states: "The approximately two thousand five hundred (2,500) acres presently farmed by the United States in the Tulelake National Wildlife Refuge will not be increased but may be shifted during the term hereof, and the United States will conduct additional studies for the purpose of ascertaining the feasibility of developing substitute wildlife habitat in other areas of the Klamath Basin. If it is determined that there is such substitute wildlife habitat that can be developed, the United States will consider reduction in the area now utilized for said Tulelake Wildlife Refuge, commensurate with demonstrated evidence that the substitute habitat area meets waterfowl management requirements acceptable to the secretary. Subject to the terms and provisions of this contract, the jurisdiction of the United States over Tulelake National Wildlife Refuge shall be unchanged and the continued use of refuge lands and waters for refuge purposes shall be as the secretary may direct."

10. Q. Is substitute land available?

A. Yes. Approximately 10,000 acres of public land is available to be added to the refuge in Lower Klamath and in addition, about 12,000 acres are being developed in the Lower Klamath Lake Refuge. Some additional work needs to be done in this area however. In addition, there is 5,000 acres

of more or private land that can be acquired by purchase adjacent to the present Lower Klamath Refuge. All of these lands are either in grain production or capable of quality grain production.

11. Q. How much land is in the present refuges in the Upper Klamath Basin and how much is in public hunting area?

A. Total acres in Tulelake Refuge, 35,000; public hunting area, 9,124; percentage 26. Total acres in Lower Klamath Lake Refuge, 29,480; public hunting area, 6,526; percentage, 22. Total acres in Clear Lake Refuge, 32,740; public hunting area, 0; percentage, 0. Total acres in Upper Klamath Lake Refuge, 15,107; public hunting area, 4,876; percentage, 32. Total acres in all refuges, 112,227; total public hunting area, 20,526; total percentage, 18.

12. Q. What is the importance of grain lands for the refuge and hunting purposes?

A. In the 1956 survey of the "Wetlands in the United States," the department stated: "Any plan for providing adequate habitat for the large populations of waterfowl in a flyway must take into account both breeding and wintering habitat. Waterfowl are capable of migrating long distances without stopping, so providing habitat just for use during migration is not necessarily essential to the welfare of the birds, though it is highly important from the standpoint of the hunter."

"Unless the birds are induced to stop on their southern journey, hunting opportunities will be extremely limited in some states. It has been repeatedly observed that the southbound waterfowl will take up at least temporary residence if attractive habitat is available en route and certain species will spend the entire winter in new, more northerly environments if food supplies and water conditions are favorable. For hunting, the inclusion of so-called intermediate wetlands is necessary to the adequate management of the flyway."

13. Q. What use is made of the private grain lands in the Upper Klamath Basin?

A. Historically these private grain lands provided some of the

best hunting in the world. The private grain lands have not been so effectively used with the development of more grain in the refuge, particularly when left standing. Approximately 5,000 acres of grain in the Tulelake and Lower Klamath refuges are left standing. Older residents remark on the change in the past 10 years in concentrating the birds inside the refuges and not having them move outside the area so that hunting opportunities are available to the public. There are nearly 200,000 acres of grain land in the Upper Klamath Basin which the gleanings from which would provide excellent feed and hunting opportunities throughout the Basin, if the birds were not concentrated.

14. Q. How does hunter success compare in Tulelake vs. Lower Klamath?

A. Birds harvested in Tulelake Refuge in 1953, 63,110; 1954, 95,594; 1955, 36,573; 1956, 39,872; 1957, 25,703; 1958, 37,641.

Birds harvested in Lower Klamath Lake Refuge in 1953, 23,567; 1954, 11,875; 1955, 42,484; 1956, 27,062; 1957, 24,578; 1958, 33,034.

15. Q. Why were the irrigation

and drainage facilities of the Tulelake Basin transferred to the Tulelake Irrigation District?

A. Since the lands of the Tulelake Basin were first homesteaded in 1922, and particularly since the act of 1924, the secretary has been under obligation to have the irrigation facilities operated by the local farmers in the Tulelake Basin. The secretary has been criticized by the Congress repeatedly and particularly in the 1947-1949 period because the facilities were being operated by the federal government. The transfer of irrigation facilities was a normal part of the defederalization of such projects. Actually with very few exceptions, such irrigation and drainage facilities throughout the United States are operated by water users. The problem which we have in the Tulelake Basin, is largely one that the Fish and Wildlife Service wants the facilities operated in a way in which they were not designed to be operated.

16. Q. Why should we consider homesteading the lands of the Tulelake Basin, particularly in view of the surplus of farm products which we now have?

A. The homestead proposal of the Tulelake Irrigation District justifies the support of hunters and farmers alike as it puts present refuge land in private ownership, which history proves would then be largely available for hunting. This land would also be in a better crop rotation and would produce more green crops compatible to the waterfowl diet. Further the homesteading proposals of the Tulelake Irrigation District is not primarily to reduce the area in the refuges or decrease their value as holding areas or public hunting areas, but merely to move the hunting and refuges to Lower Klamath Lake. The land in the Tulelake Refuge is worth \$500 an acre because of the range of crops that can be produced, but the land in Lower Klamath is valued at \$50 or \$100 per acre, since it is valuable only for small grain production. This will put the birds on a more extensive area and with increased amounts of feed.

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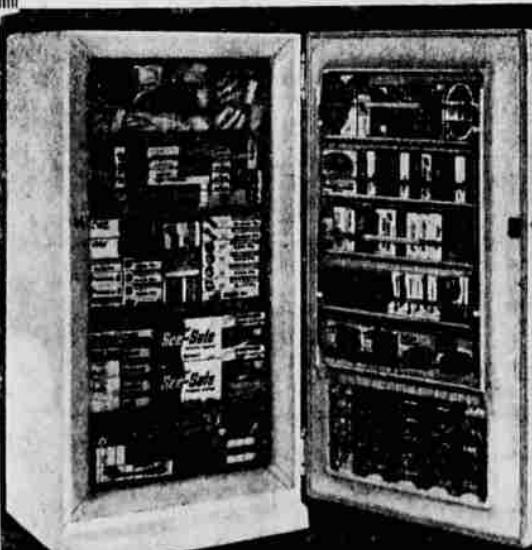
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