

THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

DUANE R. ALTERS Editor and Publisher

Duane R. Alters and Rita K. Whorton, Owners



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To escape comment or criticism, do nothing,
be nothing, say nothing.

New Publishers for The Journal

It's always difficult to say "goodbye," especially when it is to those in a community such as that of Nyssa and surrounding area. Even a short period of seven years is sufficient time for a family to get their roots deeply imbedded in all aspects of community life and to become so much a part of the everyday pulse-beat that it is as natural as breathing.

The new publishers, Ted and Gale Brammer, have the qualifications to serve the area in an outstanding manner. They are newspaper people and they come from rural communities to give them that feeling of "belonging."

The Brammers are fortunate, indeed, to come to such a locality as this—one that is loyal, helpful and understanding and where farmers, wage-earners and those in business have such close alliances in all phases of community life. Like nowhere else in the world, there is that basic American tradition of cooperation for the common good.

An additional personal note from Duane and Fern Alters must be included to express our whole-hearted appreciation for the excellent cooperation we have received and for that "human touch" that has made the past seven years so spiritually fruitful.

YOUR LEGISLATORS SPEAK . . .
Senator

By Sen. Anthony Yturri

Oregon has an opportunity to obtain \$14 million a year from the federal government for the construction of highways in the state both interstate highways and highways within the state boundaries. The availability of this money depends upon the passage of a bill that will increase the gasoline tax from 6 cents to 7 cents. Such a tax will provide \$600,000 a year for the cities; \$1,200,000 for the counties and \$4,200,000 a year for the State.

This bill passed the house by an overwhelming vote and is now in the senate state and federal affairs committee. This committee first voted to table the bill, but upon my insistence, finally passed it out of the committee with a referral clause that the matter be submitted to the voters.

I have received many letters from Malheur county protesting the reduction in welfare funds as a result of which the nursing home program has been curtailed by 10 percent. As you know the ways and means committee appropriated \$1,200,000 as a deficiency appropriation to meet the deficit that the welfare budget will face in this current year.

I have protested to the members of the ways and means committee concerning the cut that will so adversely and seriously affect the nursing homes. My pleas have fallen upon deaf ears. However, they did agree that an additional deficit appropriation of \$200,000 would be passed by the committee, but upon examination of the nature of this \$200,000 appropriation, I fail to see how any of it can be used for the nursing home problem unless the welfare people take the bull by the horns and use a proportion of it for that purpose in disregard of instructions.

HB 506 is one that will be of interest to the assessors throughout the state. Multnomah county during the past year assessed all property 100% of true cash value. This bill will require that all property be assessed for tax purposes at a uniform ratio. At the present time, with the exception of Multnomah, there is no county in Oregon that has a ratio greater than 30%. The ratios vary from 30% down to 18%. This bill would provide that the ratio in 1901 and 1902 would be 30% in all counties except Multnomah and then in 1903 and subsequent years, all property would be assessed at 100% of true cash value. The uniformity aspects of this bill are desirable but the step up in the assessment ratio may have disturbing effects upon existing statutory millage and debt limits.

The Legislature has finally realized that there should be an honest and thorough study on behalf of the property tax payers of Oregon, because they are a major problem in this state and the burden is becoming almost unbearable. A resolution has been introduced that will create an interim committee of six members. This committee will have the specific task of studying all facets of expenditures by political subdivision of this state.

One of the results certain to emanate from the committee's work would be a public disclosure of all expenditures and in certain instances in Oregon there certainly have been unnecessary expenditures that have been kept from the knowledge of the tax-paying public.

Today, April 24, is the 103rd day of the session. The helter-skelter of the capitol is some-

thing to behold. Naturally the big problem is the tax program. From Jan. 12 until Feb. 9, the Democrats were screaming for the governor to submit his tax program. In no previous legislature had a governor presented such a program so early a date. In any event, Gov. Hatfield submitted his tax program on Feb. 9. Within a few days, four Holmes' tax programs were introduced. Strangely enough, each and every one of these programs, including the Sen. Pearson program, provided for the elimination of the Federal income tax deduction and contribution deduction. As you know, all revenue measures must originate in the house. For 103 days the house taxation committee has floundered and stumbled about with various tax programs in complete bewilderment. The house taxation committee was striving to find a politically expedient course to follow, blithely ignoring the fiscal responsibilities of the legislature.

One fact that has been repeated a thousand times and is known to every tax expert and to every legislator is the fact that within two or three years the state of Oregon will be faced with the necessity of finding additional revenues to the extent of \$30 million more than the present tax structure will provide.

The house taxation committee well knows the unpopularity of even suggesting any increased tax program or broadening of the base. They are also fully aware that ex-Gov. Holmes on 4 occasions recommended and asked for a broadening of the tax base which simply means bringing more people into the taxpaying arena. Gov. Hatfield also recommended the base broadening structure. Dr. Sly, a tax expert to whom the State paid \$35,000, recommended a broadening of the base. The house taxation committee is fully aware of this. They even subpoenaed newspaper editors to appear before them for tax advice. The same story was told to them by each tax authority.

Despite all this, and after stumbling about in the dark for 100 days, the house tax committee which contains six Democrats and three Republicans, came forth on the 100th day with a program that was virtually an adoption of the Hatfield program. This was by a unanimous vote of the committee. The newspapers immediately referred to it as approval of the Hatfield program. Naturally this incensed those who have always been seeking to embarrass the governor. A Democratic caucus was called, and believe it or not, the house Democrats were forced to recall the tax program to the committee simply because the newspapers had suggested that the Democrats had adopted the Hatfield program.

Today is the 103rd day and the house taxation committee finally is coming forth with a new program which, so I am told, increases the taxes on those with net incomes in excess of \$10,000. This may be proper, but there simply is not sufficient money in that area because there are only 6,000 taxpayers in the entire state of Oregon who have a net income in excess of \$20,000 a year. In any event, the house Democratic-controlled led tax committee now will act upon a tax program. It will probably be voted upon in the house either Saturday, April 25, or Monday, April 27.

Remember that this program has never been seen by any of the senators. It must still come to the

GATE CITY GLEANINGS

By Andy Nonimus

You could have knocked me over with a ton of bricks—which the Boss has often done, only it's always been one brick at a time. The Boss let me read the news story about the sale of the G.C.J. and I began to wonder about where I stood. He told me that since I seldom stood and usually sat, there just wasn't any point in discussing it.

By nature I'm a worry-wart so I started worrying about all the unkind things that had slipped through in this column. Art Colby bought me a cup of coffee and paid for it himself even though I've jostled him about the city alleys that have jostled me—particularly the one back of The Journal office. I have to sneak in the back door and that makes it necessary to use that alley several times a day.

Frankly, I just don't know how the city is going to get along without my advice—and the highway department! Brother! Are they going to run into some trouble without my suggestions before they get that intersection at Main and First right at the underpass all squared away. All these months I've provided advice—all for free—on some of those problems and a lot of others, so maybe without my yacking some progress will be made.

I've kinda worried, too, about

Senate taxation committee and the labor bosses and leading house Democrats will be shouting to the high heavens for the Senate to adopt the house program without even an examination of it. Chairman Ward Cook of the senate taxation committee, also a Democrat, but a very reasonable and successful businessman, insists that the senate taxation committee will "take a long, hard look before it adopts any program."

The deep-seated, philosophical split among the house Democrats is prolonging this legislative session to the injury of all Oregonians. Plain, politically-inspired partisanship in the house has made a shambles of the sound, constructive tax and budget proposals that have been made. For lack of tax unity and understanding and due to lack of legislative leadership in the field of taxation, the house Democrats have floundered and stumbled around with a multitude of tax plans, and have finally conceded that they have nothing constructive to offer.

The simple fact is that we are right back where we were on Jan. 12 when the session opened. All that we know is that the ways and means committee has poured out about 315 millions of dollars from the general fund. The hop-skip, pass-and-recall action of the house Democrats in these last, gasping, dying days of this session indicates an inability to cope with the responsibility of serving as the majority party. They have forsaken fiscal responsibility for political expediency.

I only wish that some of you were here to see what is actually happening and witness the manner in which some of your vital problems are being rushed through blindly in these last closing days. It would give you just cause to wonder whether the laws that govern you are the product of sound reasoning and honest consideration.

(Last Week's Report)

Daylight Saving Time

Since I have talked about the daylight saving time bill in two other newsletters, I shall not dwell on it this week except to tell you that a bill was passed on Thursday which will submit to the people the question of whether or not they wish to have daylight saving time. Past votes have indicated they did not, but it was brought out in the debate that there are many new citizens in Oregon and young people who are coming to the voting age, who, by 1960, when the vote comes up, may wish to vote for this measure. As I told you previously, I requested an amendment which would exclude from consideration of the measure those cities presently operating on mountain standard time. All that remains now is the governor's signature and the vote of the people in the election of 1960.

Against Aid to Reds

There has been criticism of the Oregon state senate by reason of its passage of SJM 5. This legislation memorializes the President of the United States to remove restrictions on trade with the Chinese People's Republic commonly known as "Red China". It is my opinion that such criticism is justified and highly proper, but I do object to the criticism including the entire membership of the senate.

The vote by which this memorial passed the senate was 16 to 14. All eleven Republicans, including myself, of course, voted against the measure. Red China has imprisoned at least five innocent fellow-Americans. Every single

Sunset Valley

By Lois Council
Phone 2439

(Last Week's News)
Mrs. P. L. Wagstaff and Mrs. Tom Purdy of Ogden and Mr. and Mrs. Glen Purdy of Boise were dinner guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Stoker. Mrs. Wagstaff is the sister of Mrs. Stoker and the mother of Mrs. Glen Purdy.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Stoker and family of Adrian and Mr. and Mrs. Orville Knight of Homedale visited the Lee Stokers Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Chapin and family visited at the Gabriel Astoreca home Sunday afternoon.

Messrs. and Mmes. Leland Montgomery, Lorin Munn and Kenneth Farr went to Pocatello to leave the grandson of the Munn's with his mother, Mrs. David Wynn. They went on to the LDS temple at Idaho Falls Saturday. Mrs. Paul Wynn of Adrian was staying with Mrs. David Wynn who was ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Porter of Salt Lake City visited at the home of her brother, Irvin Durfee Thursday and Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Householder and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schweitzer were hosts Sunday to Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Schweizer, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Johnson of Parma and Mrs. Lois Williams of Adrian, at dinner.

Mr. and Mrs. Vic Marshall were visitors Sunday evening at the Charles Schweitzer home.

Mmes. Delbert Poor, Albert Notheis and Chas. Schweitzer attended the evening dinner meeting of the Delta Gamma at the East Side Cafe in Ontario Friday. Dr. Sam Pobanz of Ontario spoke to the group on mental health.

Mr. and Mrs. O. P. Council visited the Chester Council family in New Plymouth Sunday.

Mrs. Henry Fields and Mrs. Myrtle Blodgett and grandson all of Nyssa, visited Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Cloninger Sunday. Mrs. Bessie Cloninger of Nyssa spent Sunday with the E. E. Cloningers.

Gary and Donald Costley and

effort of the United States to effect the release of these innocent men has failed. Our state department has negotiated directly with the Communists at Geneva and at Warsaw.

In closing this, my last letter from Salem, I want to thank the newspaper for using the material I have sent each week. It has been my hope that through these letters the people at home would be better informed of what is going on here in our government generally. And I want to thank you for your interest in what I have had to say. This has been indicated by the many, many letters I have received from my friends at home pointing to legislation before us. I have tried to consider all of the comments and opinions which have been presented to me and have been as far as possible in working for the interests of the 21st district.

Both Mrs. Yturri and I are anxious to be home again with our friends. We have enjoyed our stay in Salem tremendously, but there is no place like home!

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their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Costley all of Ridgeview were dinner guests of the former's sister, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Price, Jr. Sunday.

Miss Edith Williams and brother, Harvey, visited their cousin, Mrs. Elsie Wayne in Fruitland Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. William Turner of Owyhee Corners were Sunday supper guests of the Ken Lorensens.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Heddon of Ontario called at the Kenneth Lorensen home Sunday evening. The Elvin Orm and Ray Evins families had a picnic on Willow Creek Sunday. They also called at the Frank Kendall home near Vale.

Saturday, Darlene Orm attended a show in Ontario with her uncle, Virgil Johnson, and spent the night with her grandparents, the L. F. Orms in Roswell.

Mr. and Mrs. Ira Price, Sr., attended a birthday dinner Sunday at the Kenneth Price home at Adrian, honoring the 3rd birthday of Larry Price. Other guests were Larry's grandparents, the Lambert Dierking.

Mmes. Ira Price, Sr., Don Brewster and Clifford Smith took the 6th

grade, Mrs. Lowell's room from the Adrian school to a roller skating party in Ontario Friday. They had a picnic lunch.

Mrs. Ira Price, Sr., and Mrs. Albert Notheis were hostesses to the ANK extension unit Thursday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Walt Hillis left Wednesday for Carey, Ida., where they visited her brother, the Floyd Randolphs, Jack Dudley, G. W. Rudolph and the Archie Rudolph family, all of Burley. Mrs. Hillis' mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Storm of Burley returned with them to spend the summer.

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