

THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

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Salem Scene

House Speaker Seeks
Vote on Tax Reform

Providing freedom of choice on local tax problems is the goal of F. F. (Monte) Montgomery, speaker of the House of Representatives, and he aims for referral to Oregon voters of a tax reform package—including a sales tax—while the 1967 legislature still is in session.

Interviewed last week, the Eugene Republican was emphatic on one point:

"We don't need additional money to run state government; we can continue and even accelerate existing programs. I want to keep pounding this and pounding this, and I want to divorce state tax problems from local tax problems."

Speaker Montgomery's "Freedom of Choice" proposal would allow citizens to choose between no change in local taxation or accepting alternative sources of revenue to provide property tax cuts.

Alternatives would consist mainly of a three percent state sales tax, excluding food and drugs, and a corporate income tax increase, with a provision to limit property taxes for school purposes. Unlike Gov. McCall, Rep. Montgomery does not believe the people will approve an income tax hike. And, unlike the governor, he does not believe corporation income and excise taxes should be raised two percent.

"I don't believe \$16 million can be cut from state programs without severe damage to programs long since requested and approved by the people," says Rep. Montgomery, referring to Gov. McCall's budget proposals. "And I don't believe the people want an increase in their income tax, as they have demonstrated three times in 15 years, twice in the last eight. We haven't in 20 years had the opportunity to vote on a sales tax in the same manner as the cigarette tax last May."

Rep. Montgomery, a lanky Eugene insurance man now serving his second term as the leading House officer, makes it clear he is not a sales tax advocate. Income tax is the best method, he maintains, "but after two tries in my short tenure, I'm prepared to try something else."

At any rate, something must be done for those who seek property tax cuts, and he feels the Senate will share this feeling. He expresses confidence in legislative referral and getting the measure on the ballot during the current session. The package, he predicts, will appear on the ballot in title form, or outline; if approved, the legislature will implement the various proposals and smooth the way for property tax reduction.

Rep. Montgomery also foresees continuation of some state-level programs to relieve property taxes. Inventory tax relief must come, for example, and he anticipates no problem in the appropriation of state funds earmarked for this purpose. He also will support a gasoline tax increase if revenue is tagged to go back to cities and counties.

Air and water quality, rated by legislators as the state's number two problem area, is viewed as a real dilemma by Speaker Montgomery. A good first step, he feels, would be to strengthen the State Sanitary authority by providing it with funds and staff equal to its statutory responsibility.

But there is no consensus, no place to find answers, he feels, in seeking to purify the air in particular. The federal answer is to appropriate money, he says; often the only answer is to shut down offending operations.

"Yet the biggest offender is the automobile. I've been to many meetings and we conclude we have a problem, but... I'm looking for someone with the answers, and I'm not sure there is any such person."

Unemployment compensation legislation will loom large this session, and Rep. Montgomery looks for some changes. He opposes tying benefits to a percentage of the state's average weekly wage, which he believes would relinquish legislative responsibility for setting dollar amounts. But Republicans are unanimous in supporting a 10 percent increase in benefits this year, and in revising benefit schedules and rates to "more adequately reward those good employer-employee relationships."

Rep. Montgomery anticipates this session will last no longer than in 1965, and hopefully not as long. Part of the reason lies in the go-ahead signal he has given his appointed committee chairmen. Instead of waiting for bills or someone to present a problem, committees have been instructed to look ahead 20 to 30 years and draw up legislation now to meet future state needs.

"I'm very proud of this constructive step forward," the House speaker reports. "Committee chairmen are initiating and innovating on their own, headlining problem areas and then having people in to testify."

"We want to be responsive to the people, but we also have the responsibility to lead."

Classifieds Bring Results!

Nyssa Lapidary Tells of Unusual Discoveries at Various Locations

By ADOLPH SCHROEDER

The early-day fence posts of central and western Kansas were made from ocean-deposited limestone. Often one side of the stone posts was a solid mass of snail shell fossils. I first saw these posts in 1897 and thereby was introduced to fossils.

Those limestone posts are still standing in many parts of Kansas, and should readers of this article ever go through

Ten years later (in 1907), I was near Larned, Kan., exploring the Arkansas river. The river was dry; however, at the upstream point of an island was a deep hole full of clear water and at the bottom was a hollow log, which I found to be petrified. So came my first find of petrified wood.

Later I learned that many islands have their beginning by a large log or snag becoming lodged in a stream bed, with the island gradually building up behind it. No doubt if deep digging should be done at upstream points of the Snake river islands, many would be found to contain such driftwood that perhaps is petrified.

In 1937, I found a flat thin piece of shale rock measuring about six by nine inches and containing a network of markings. A year later I showed it to a Kansas high school professor. He became excited and produced a nine by 11-inch plate of identical fossil markings. They are those of one of the first seaweeds to grow in the ocean, a very rare and valuable scientific find.

His was found in Kansas and mine was found in the Minidoka hills south of Twin Falls. I gave him my piece of rock, thinking that I would go get more at the Idaho location. I have yet to do so!

North of Buhl, Idaho, I was told, fossil bones were to be found. The deposit, I discovered, is in a strata of fine sand overlaid by a heavy cap rock of lava. Pack rats had exposed the bones. Joe Rose of Jerome and I proceeded to dig until we found the skull. The teeth are neither those of meat nor grass-eating animal. They are somewhat rounded like the tips of a human finger. A year or so later that skull was identified as that of a sea lion.

The question is, "Did the ocean reach to Buhl at one time; and if not, how did a sea-living animal get there?"

Several years ago the Maurice Coreys and I were camped at Crooked creek on the ION highway. I found a petrified front leg bone of a two-toed animal. The bone forks into two terminals, one for each toe, and we judge it to be from the large camel family.

This last discovery could not have been established as an accredited find, acceptable to science, as it was found among a lot of rubble.

But the others could have been so established if photographs had been taken at the site and the removal witnessed by accredited persons, such as public officials, with written statements, sworn to and notarized by them. Because this was not done, the real scientific value has been lost forever, as was the sea lion find.

A study of petrified wood can lead to startling information, even in astronomical data of ages past. The yearly growth rings are of the same sequence of dry and wet years as of today. Any major weather cycle change of unusual character is registered by growth rings in trees.

But fossils having the most amazing implications are those of the human being. J. W. Osgood, owner of a Texaco service station in Rupert, Idaho, has a well formed and preserved human skull. It has a full set of teeth as to jaw structure and growth of

teeth. Yet it has one less molar on each side, both upper and lower jaw, making a total of four teeth less than the present day human skull.

The astonishing thing is that the molars are perfect canine teeth with sharp points. The front teeth show very little difference from those of a human. The brain cavity is about two-thirds the size of the average human skull.

Osgood also has a giant ox or bison skull which measures four feet from tip to tip of the bone which held the horns, and 16 inches from center to center of eye sockets.

These two objects were found in a gravel pit near Idaho Falls. Again no accredited witness was on hand, so the scientific value was lost. In Casper, Wyo., there is a 22-inch tall mature human male mummy, owned by a druggist. It was found sitting on a shelf in a crypt or small cave, in solid granite.

Those in the scientific world raved and stormed about it for several years, then quietly forgot it. Again, no accredited witness.

What about the vertebra Dr. John Long showed at a recent meeting? Could it be an artificial vertebra of a Mayan sacred serpent idol. Looking at it closely, I was certain it could not be natural, but feel that it is an artifact. Fossils, only in a way, but with most fascinating implications.

CLASSIFIEDS FOR RESULTS!

Second Inter-Church Meeting to Be Held

The public is welcome to attend the second of three special meetings on the theme "Affluence and Poverty: Dilemma for Christians" at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5, in St. Paul's Episcopal church.

Featured speaker will be Jess Armas, Malheur County Welfare department officer and minister of the Ontario Church of Christ. Program topic will be "Listen Before You Leap Into Helping."

Short talks will also be presented by representatives of local helping projects. The meeting will be open for questions from the audience.

The Rev. Orville Jacobson of Faith Lutheran church will lead the worship service. The series is an inter-church project of St. Paul's Episcopal, Faith Lutheran and Methodist churches of Nyssa, according to the Rev. Ralph A. Lawrence, coordinator.

PACIFIC LUTHERAN CHOR TO APPEAR THIS EVENING

The 63-voice "Choir of the West" from Pacific Lutheran university in Tacoma, Wash., will present a concert of sacred music at 8 o'clock this evening, Feb. 2 in the Ontario high school auditorium.

According to a release submitted by Pastor Orville Jacobson of Faith Lutheran church, powerful motets and chorales, traditional songs of the church and refreshing contemporary works will be included on the program.

A featured composition will be "The Lamentations of Jeremiah," a dramatic selection by Alberta Ginastria.

CHURCH BUILDER SUCCUMBS

Nyssa friends were recently notified of the death of D. R. Degross in Santa Ana, Calif.

According to the Rev. Ralph A. Lawrence, the deceased built the sanctuary portion of Nyssa Methodist church.

Money Borrowing Guides Outlined In Oregon State University Bulletin

Shopping for money is like shopping for any other product. The intelligent buyer will compare cost, convenience and service before "purchasing" a loan.

There are many different sources of personal loans, points out Mrs. Alberta Johnston, extension family finance specialist at Oregon State university.

All of these sources should be investigated before you borrow, she cautions. Look for the lowest possible interest rate, service that matches your needs and a repayment schedule that fits your budget.

Deal with reliable financial institutions or lenders and compare loan costs from the various sources, Mrs. Johnston says. Remember that the note you sign is a legal document written so the company can collect in case you fail to pay.

Repayment Should Be Studied

Mrs. Johnston also advises borrowing only for something which is important to you and which will last longer than the time it takes to repay the loan. The repayment schedule is also an important consideration if the loan is not to become too much of a financial burden.

Bank loans are among the lowest in cost for those who can qualify, but commercial banks may be more conservative in their lending policies, preferring to loan to their customers or people they know.

Under Oregon laws, banks can charge 8 percent discounted per year on loans under \$500. Discounted loans mean the interest is deducted before the borrower receives the money. The maximum interest rate is 10 percent simple interest on loans over \$500.

Credit Unions Cooperative

Credit union interest charges also are set by law. The maximum is 1 percent per month on the unpaid balance of the loan. Credit unions are cooperatives

that make loans only to members. Consumer finance companies, or small loan companies, are in business only to make personal or consumer loans, both secured and unsecured. Because they lend to a wider range of customers, their interest rates are higher than either commercial banks or credit unions.

The Oregon Consumer Finance act sets a maximum per month interest rate that may be charged by finance companies on the unpaid balance of loans. Maximum rates are 3 percent on the unpaid balance up to \$300; 2 percent from \$300 to \$500; and 1 percent over \$500 and less than \$1500.

Insurance Policies Offer Loans

Insurance companies will loan up to the cash value of an insurance policy, but the face value of the policy is reduced by the amount of the loan until it is repaid.

Interest rates are set forth in the insurance policy. Usually no deadline is set for repayment, but the borrower pays interest as long as he keeps the money.

Mrs. Johnston has written a bulletin, "Use Consumer Credit Wisely." Copies are available on request from county extension service offices or from the Bulletin Clerk, Department of Printing, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Ore. 97331. The bulletin number is 815.

VISIT FLINDERS COUPLE

Mr. and Mrs. Arvel Child of Quincy, Wash., were Friday visitors and overnight guests of his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. J. Elwood Flinders.

YOU ARE INVITED... OPEN HOUSE!

New **USS** Farm Service Center

Ontario, Thursday, February 9

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

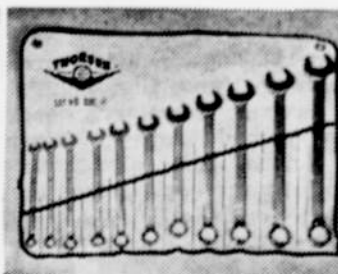
A PRIZE EVERY HOUR

A valuable gift will be awarded every hour to a Farmer in attendance at the Open House.

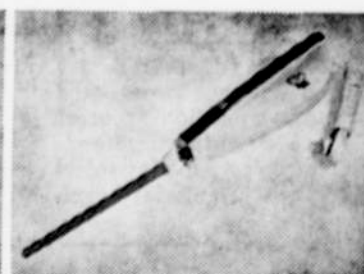
PRIZES!



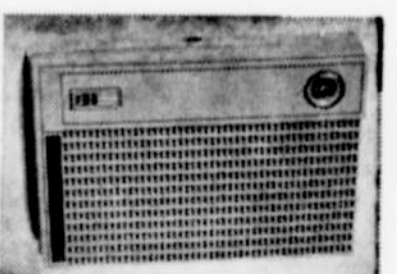
ELECTRIC CLOCKS



THORSEN WRENCH SET



ELECTRIC KNIFE



PORTABLE TRANSISTOR RADIOS

No obligation — Nothing to buy

- MEET the friendly, courteous staff.
- TOUR the plant... inspect the equipment designed especially for this area.
- REFRESHMENTS — Food — coffee — soft drinks — salt water taffy.
- AGRONOMIC FACTS FOR YOU: As a special feature, Dr. Dale Stukenholtz, Chief Western Agronomist for U.S. Steel, will be present at the Open House to personally answer questions about your specific soil fertility problems.

United States Steel offers new services, new equipment, new facilities — and new help in planning at the new USS Farm Service Center. New blending equipment, spreading equipment, bulk bin service, ammonia applicators — all will be on display at the special Open House activities at Ontario.

Better
growers
grow
Better!



United States Steel
Farm Service Center
Soil Fertility Specialists

ONTARIO at the railroad crossing on Alemeda Avenue near Cairo

Announcement . . .

The insurance business of the Renstrom Agency of Nyssa, Oregon, has been purchased by Malheur Insurance, an independent agency, Ontario, Oregon.

The business will be located at the same address, 217 Good Avenue, Nyssa, Oregon.

Patrons are invited to pay us a visit on any matters relative to any kind of insurance. The same companies will be handled by this office as previously. Mrs. Janelle Seward will continue as office secretary.

MALHEUR INSURANCE

NYSSA

217 Good Avenue
Phone 372-2997

ONTARIO

97 S.W. 2nd Avenue
Phone 889-8219

Serving Both Oregon and Idaho

