

THE GATE CITY JOURNAL
 TED M. BRAMMER, Editor and Publisher

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Salem Scene
 by Everett E. Cutter

Initiative Moves Seen As Tax Structure Threats

In ignoring the "what's the use" critics and reaffirming his intention to call the legislature into special session this fall, Governor Tom McCall apparently thinks something can be done to cut property taxes without recourse to some initiative petition ideas now being promoted.

Such faith in the Oregon legislative process can be justified by the record, according to some students of taxation, despite the 1967 assembly's failure to reach agreement on any local tax relief plan.

In recent years, they note, lawmakers have directly reduced homeowners' bills through the Property Tax Relief Act of 1965 and referral of the successful cigarette tax to Oregon voters. Indirect relief has come by way of increases in basic school support and other state money directed to local aid; the new gasoline tax increase will give more road and recreation area funds to cities and counties.

Furthermore, they point out, legislators have eased the burden on elderly homeowners through the senior citizens' homestead exemption and have fought off elimination of the state personal income tax deduction now allowed on property taxes paid.

Despite popular clamor for repeal of property-tax exemptions, elected state leaders consistently have refused to allow application of local taxes to homeowners' personal property. This practice creates a big tab in many states, and is a significant exemption not allowed business taxpayers.

Mindful of Oregon's business climate, legislators have encouraged business growth through legislation as the Inventory Tax Relief Act of 1965. That act is phasing out half of Oregon's inventory tax, which actually is a property tax paid by businessmen on goods in stock.

Other incentives to spur growth in business and employment have included exemption from tax liability of goods shipped into Oregon for trans-shipment elsewhere, the "greenbelt" provision offering property tax relief to farmers and the exemption from taxation of buildings while under construction. Beginning Sept. 13, persons or industries installing anti-pollution facilities, instead of being penalized for improving property, will be allowed some tax relief on the new equipment.

Most important for both homeowners and business is the high degree of uniformity of assessment and administration among all classifications of property which has been achieved over the years. Because of this, tax experts note, Oregon has become the model state insofar as property tax equality is concerned.

In spite of past legislative efforts, most also will agree that property taxes are too high, that we place too much reliance on local taxes to support burgeoning local needs. Like current legislators, however, they fail to agree on an answer to property tax relief demands. Harmony comes closer when considering ways NOT to solve the dilemma, some of which are embodied in initiative proposals.

Among these are well-publicized ideas to place a flat 1 or 1 1/2 per cent limitation on property taxes through Constitutional amendment. Although appealing on the surface, these generally are regarded as disastrous, for such limitations would slice local revenues from one-third to half without providing other resources to pay education and local government costs.

Other proposals gaining favor in recent weeks would extend property tax relief only to homeowners. Such ideas, whose proponents include State Treasurer Robert Straub, Oregon Young Republicans and some Democratic legislative leaders, are being challenged on grounds that (1) they display lack of confidence in the record compiled by legislators and (2) they would severely damage Oregon's business climate.

On the latter point, those who would seek equal relief for all classes of property argue that business and industry already shoulder the greatest property tax burden. Special relief to residential property owners would shift an even larger percentage onto business property.

More industry and year-round employment provide the answer to a balanced, non-seasonal Oregon economy, according to businessmen. This is particularly important in a state where the three largest industries—forest products, agriculture and tourism—are highly seasonal. And Oregon's uniform property tax structure, they maintain, provides a major inducement to expansion and diversification of industry—which, in turn, means more jobs.

In any case, the threat to Oregon's economy posed by such plans, and the defeat of a number of school budgets around the state, is causing some re-evaluation of the whole tax reform program. Governor McCall said last week he may call a special session earlier than September "if a crisis intervenes."

And present legislators, despite the taxation record to be written in Salem over many earlier years, now are learning from the folks at home that ill feeling over 1967 session results is widespread and will not easily be forgotten.

Obituaries

Harry E. Collins

Funeral services for Harry Emerson Collins were conducted at 10:30 a.m. Monday, July 10, 1967 at Lienkaemper chapel. Officiating was the Rev. Orville Jacobson of Faith Lutheran church.

Mr. Collins, a 26-year resident of Nyssa, succumbed Friday at the Payette Valley sanitarium in Payette, Idaho.

For two years he had been a patient there and in nursing homes at Boise, Ontario and Nyssa.

He was born Dec. 15, 1875 at Stoughton, Wis., a son of John and Anna Collins, and at age 11, moved with his parents who homesteaded near Parker, So. Dak.

In 1902, the deceased was married to Emma Hienold, who died in 1906. He later married Lydia Hienold, who succumbed in 1925. Mr. Collins was united in marriage in 1931 to Alice A. Helvig, who is presently residing at 614 N. 4th street in Nyssa.

The deceased was affiliated with the Methodist church, and was a farmer, having homesteaded in the Plankinton, So. Dak. area.

In addition to his widow, he is survived by six sons, Floyd, Ralph and Don of Boise; Lyle of Belle Fourche, So. Dak.; Martin of El Cerrito, Calif.; and Fay Collins of the Apple Valley community on the Idaho side of the Snake river near Nyssa.

Other survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Kathryn Smith and Mrs. Ardene Hunter, both of Boise.

A brother, Earl Collins of Phoenix, Ariz.; numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren also survive.

Burial was made in the Nyssa cemetery, under direction of Lienkaemper funeral home.

William J. Bott

Graveside services for William Julius Bott, 81, were conducted Wednesday morning, July 12, 1967 at Kohler lawn cemetery in Nampa. Officiating was the Rev. Wallace Prowell of Nyssa First Christian church.

Mr. Bott succumbed Monday at a nursing home in Ontario. He was born September 22, 1885 at Hooper, Nebr., was a retired farmer, having resided in the Nyssa area for the past 48 years.

He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Naomi Ferreira of Princeton, Calif., and one sister, Mrs. Angus Northrup of Omaha, Nebr.

Lienkaemper chapel in Nyssa was in charge of local arrangements.



THE FAMILY OF THE REV. J. W. DOTSON, who on June 18, took over pastoral duties of Nyssa's First Baptist church located at Second street and Ehrgood avenue. Pictured with Pastor Dotson is his wife, Peggy, daughters, Linda Christine, 5; and Sheri Rene, 7-years-old. The family resides at 203 North Second street and came to Nyssa from Bellflower, Calif., where the Rev. Dotson had studied for five years at Baptist Institute. Mrs. Dotson grew up at Wenatchee, Wash., and her husband is a native of the Eugene, Ore., area. This is the Rev. Dotson's first pastorate, and he is the church's first pastor since the Rev. W. B. Taylor left in November last year. Pastor Dotson announces that the regular schedule of Sunday services includes Sunday school, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; Baptist training course, 7 p.m.; worship service, 8 p.m. Mid-week service is each Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock. — Journal Photo.

LETTER To the Editor

June 25, 1967

Dear Ted and Arlene,
 Would you please change the mailing address on our Journal to:
 990 North - 950 East Bountiful, Utah 84010.
 We sure enjoy our paper every week and hope all is well at Nyssa.

Yours truly,
 Irene Bartron

NAZARENE Church News

Mrs. Virgil Dean Seward will be honored with a baby shower 8 p.m. tonight at the home of Mrs. Doris Kent, 208 South Fourth street.

The Christian Minstrels Teen Chorale of Pasadena, Calif., will appear tonight at Meridian Church of the Nazarene. The fifty member choir will present the program, "A Summer Song—Music for Young America."

Nyssa Nazarene teens with their director, Mrs. Hal Poe will leave at 6:30 p.m. today for the program.

A drop-in reception in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Anderson will be held from 8-10 p.m. July 18 on the church lawn.

Caravan boys attending Boys' Camp at Victory Cove this week are Larry and Merle Saunders, David and Howard Lowe, Curtis Warren, and Billy Umferrees. The Rev. Robert Manley is serving as a counselor and David Manley is working at the camp store.

'Oil Facts' Says Gas Tax Provides Highway Program

The federal gasoline tax, which began as a penny-a-gallon temporary measure during the depression, is now 35 years old. Since 1932 it has brought in about \$33 billion.

Currently four cents a gallon, the tax provided 77 per cent of the federal money spent on road-building since the present highway program was launched in 1956.

Oil Facts notes that President Johnson recently pointed out that the highway program "is not costing the general fund of the United States treasury a single cent" because owners and operators of motor vehicles are bearing the entire cost through special taxes.

More than 75 per cent of the nation's 3.7 million miles of roads and streets now are surfaced, Oil Facts reports. Petroleum-based asphalt was used to pave more than 92 per cent of the 1.4 million miles that are hard-surfaced.

Finding a new oil or gas field is no guarantee of financial success, according to Oil Facts.

Rev. Skogan Serves As Interim Pastor For Baptist Church

The Rev. Arthur Skogan, former minister of Owyhee Community church, is serving as interim pastor of the Conservative Baptist church, located at Fourth street and Locust avenue in Nyssa.

He assumed the pastoral duties on June 25, replacing Lavon Ray Thomas of Payette.

Regular Sunday services include Sunday school, 10 a.m.; morning worship, 11 o'clock; and another worship service at 7:30 p.m. Mid-week prayer meetings are at 8 o'clock each Wednesday evening.

Nu Acres

By Jean Burton

NU ACRES — Mrs. Alta Unwin and Kenny of Portland; her nephew and niece, Steven and Michele Sutherland spent several days last week visiting the Jay Conners.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Nielsen and her son, Tom of Denver, Colo., visited June 30 with his aunt, Mrs. Effie Nielsen.

Steve Kersey left June 30 for a three-day Boy Scout campout session at Camp Billy Rice on Cascade lake.

Mr. and Mrs. John Damiano and children of Sacramento, Calif., visited last week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Anderson. Stephanie Jones of Carmichael, Calif., granddaughter of the Andersons, accompanied the Damianos and plans to stay several weeks with her grandparents.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Dargatz of Ventura, Calif., visited last week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Baxter. The Baxter's and Dargatz's left July 3 to visit for several days with friends in Rupert.

Mr. and Mrs. Woody Wilson attended a July 4 picnic at the home of their son, Mr. and Mrs. Kaye Wilson in Apple Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Wiseman and children, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Reppen spent the July 4 holiday fishing and picnicking on the Payette river.

Mr. and Mrs. Tony Mell spent a recent weekend with his uncle, John Surland at Sumpter, Ore.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Fogle and daughters moved last week into their home. They recently came here from San Leandro, Calif., and stayed with her father, Mr. and Mrs. Alden Bryan until their home was ready for occupancy.

Recent Sunday visitors of the George Pulsiphers were Mrs. Bob Haggerty of Nampa, Mrs. Gene Haggerty and children of Meridian.

Mr. and Mrs. Alden Bryan attended July 4 family gathering at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Winder at Caldwell. Also attending was a nephew, the Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Kencton and children of Phoenix, Ariz.

Mrs. Mabelle McKague left recently by jet for Minneapolis, Minn., on a business trip pertaining to her new store in Nyssa. She planned to return home July 9.

Mr. and Mrs. Jay Storey and children were recent Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Burton.

Mrs. C. L. Alexander, Tim and Dee Dee of Ontario were July 2 visitors in the home of her brother, the Jack Burtons.

Assembly Of God Church Presents Guest Speaker

The Rev. Carl Johnson Jr., pastor of the Nyssa Assembly of God church announces that a special youth meeting will be held with the Rev. Dan Franke of Dayville, Ore., as guest speaker.

Sunday, July 16, Sunday school will begin at 9:45 a.m., morning worship service will start at 11 a.m., with the evening service being held at 8 p.m.

The Rev. Franke will talk at the worship service in the morning and also the evening. Pastor Franke and his wife recently returned from Arkansas.

All area residents are cordially invited to attend this special event.

Adrian Community Church News

Members of the women's association of Adrian Community church will meet this afternoon, July 13, in the home of Mrs. Irvin Topliff.

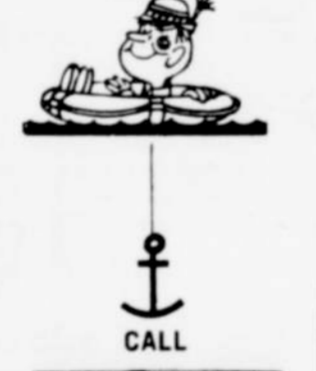
Church session members will meet at 8 o'clock this evening in the Ira Price home.

Young Lutherans Plan Skiing Party

Young people of Faith Lutheran church will hold a water skiing party Sunday, July 16 at Lake Owyhee.

Transporting vehicles will leave for the Lake site following the 9 a.m. worship service, it is announced by Pastor Orville Jacobson.

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